MY APPRECIATION
MY FRIENDSHIP
MY JEALOUSY

PLEASE!

EVERYTHING I DID... I DID IT FOR YOU! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!

I *WANTED* TO BELIEVE HER

I *WANTED* TO EMBRACE THE SWEET LIES

BUT I KNEW BETTER...

SHE WAS *POISON* TO ME.

NO...

MASKS FALL NOW. NO MORE MAKE BELIEVE.

GOODBYE, ALLISON.

I TURNED FROM ALLISON AND WAS LISBETH NO MORE.

THE END...

YOU KNOW, THEY FLY BETTER WHEN YOU MAKE THEM INTO AN AIRPLANE!

LEAVE IT THERE JIMMY!!!

FINE! *JEESH!*

I JUST CAME TO ASK YOU SOMETHING BUT IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LIKE THAT...

WHAT IS IT?

WELL, UHM .YOU SAID YOU WOULD STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS SO I WAS THINKING...

SPIT IT OUT!

YOU WANNA INVITE YOUR FRIEND *ALLISON* OVER? I'M SURE MOM WOULD...

ACCORDING TO JIMMY, THE LOOK I GAVE HIM THAT DAY COULD CURDLE MILK...

I DON'T KNOW..

HE WASS *ALWAYS* PRONE TO *EXAGGERATION*...

FINEEE! JESUS!!!

PERIOD MUCH?

COINCIDENTALLY, *YES!*

BUT THAT WASN'T WHY I WAS ACTING SO PISSY TOWARDS MY KID BROTHER..

CERTAINLY WASN'T WHY I WAS THINKING OF FINISHING MY STORY IN SUCH A *MELODRAMATIC* WAY...

IN FACT, LET ME TAKE YOU A FEW HOURS BACK. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I GOT LIKE THIS

BECAUSE THIS MASSIVE FLASHBACK NEEDS ANOTHER FLASHBACK.

TWO DAYS AGO MY BROTHER MIKE BROUGHT ME TO MY PARENT'S PLACE

SO, HOW COME...

PLEASE, MIKE... LET'S NOT, OKAY?

I WAS PISSED OFF, AND NEEDED TO COOL DOWN

I WON'T LIE... ALLY NOT CALLING THAT NIGHT, ***HURT*** ME...

ALLY NOT CALLING THE NEXT DAY... ***WORRIED*** ME.

WHEN I WAS A KID I GOT INTO A BIG ARGUMENT WITH MY MOM. SO, I DID WHAT MANY TEENAGERS DO AT SOME POINT. I LEFT THE HOUSE.

A FEW HOURS LATER IT WAS NIGHT, I WAS STILL GONE, AND MY MOM WAS WORRIED SICK

I REMEMBER COMING BACK AROUND MIDNIGHT. I REMEMBER MY MOM HUGGING ME, REMEMBER FEELING UTTERLY CONFUSED. OH MY MOM WAS STILL ANGRY. BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HERFROM LOVING ME..

THIS FELT SIMILAR...

I WAS WORRIED. IN THOSE MOMENTS DARK THOUGHTS START STORMING YOUR MIND... PARANOID FEARS. I NEEDED TO KNOW SHE WAS OKAY...

ANGER COULD WAIT...

BUT HEY, NOBODY SAID I WAS JUST GONNA ***STOP*** BEING AN IDIOT.

I MEAN, THE PHONE WAS ***RIGHT*** THERE...

OF COURSE I COULDN'T JUST CALL HER... I COULDN'T CALL ***ANNE*** NEITHER

NOT AFTER MAKING A COMPLETE JACKASS OF MYSELF...

SO I WENT TO THE NEXT BEST SOURCE.

OH , YEAH I MESSAGED ANNE THAT TOM AND I WERE GONNA GIVE YOU A LIFT. SO SHE SAID SHE WAS BRINGING ALLY HOME...

OH..SHE DID?

YEAH

LISA, WHAT HAPPENED

I... DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT NOW, BUT THANK YOU CASSIE.

ANYTIME.. .AND WHENEVER YOU WANT TO TALK..

I'LL CALL!

SO... STEP 1- RELIEF...

STEP 2... WELL, YOU KNEW *THIS* WAS COMING...

I MEAN... WHEN ***TEENAGE*** LISA CAME HOME THAT NIGHT LONG AGO, MY MOM WAS RELIEVED...

BUT THEN SHE GOT ANGRY AGAIN.

THAT'S EMOTIONS FOR YOU. HEART AND BRAIN DON'T ALWAYS WALK HAND IN HAND.

WAIT... ANNE WENT ***BACK*** FOR ALLY?

SHE BROUGHT HER ***HOME...***

POLICE

YOU KNOW, I BET EVERYONE HAS THOSE MOMENTS IN THEIR PAST WHEN ALL THEY CAN SAY IS:

"WELL, IT MADE SENSE TO ME AT THE TIME!"

NOTHING COULD STOP THE TRAIN OF DUMBASS THOUGHT

I THOUGHT ABOUT THE STORY I WROTE FOR ANNE...

I THOUGHT ABOUT THE OBVIOUS CHEMISTRY SHE AN ALLY HAD...

AND THE END CONCLUSION...

WELL, IT MADE SENSE TO ME AT THE TIME!

UNDER MY ROOF, I AM THE LAW, AND YOU...

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT!

YEAH...

LEAVE IT TO A WRITER'S MIND TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH 69

I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF JEALOUSY AS A PROJECTION OF ONE'S OWN INSECURITY...

AND THAT DAY, MINE WAS IN IMAX.

BECAUSE THAT WAS IT...

MY OWN INSECURITY MADE ME THINK THE WORST OF THE WOMAN I LOVED...

AND THE FUCKED UP PART IS, AT THAT MOMENT I BELIEVED IT.

OF COURSE! THAT'S WHY NEITHER OF THEM CALLED ME!

WHY, HELLO, ROCK BOTTOM!.

LISA: JUST CHECKING IF YOU GOT HOME ALL RIGHT?

A CURIOUS THING I NOTICED ABOUT ARGUMENTS OVER MESSAGES...

WHETHER BY PHONE OR INTERNET...

REPLIES ALWAYS SEEM TO TAKE AGES.

IT'S A MENTAL THING USUALLY...

HOWEVER, THAT DAY ALLY DID TAKE AGES

OH FOR FUCK SAKE REPLY ALREADY!

ALLYCAT:

I DID THX.

WELL... OKAY...

LISA:

CASSIE SAID ANNE DROPPED YOU OFF?

NO, ***PLEASE!*** TAKE YOUR TIME AND ***MY*** TIME... AND ***MY NEIGHBOR'S*** TIME!

ALLYCAT:

YES. WE'RE GOOD NOW.

OH, I *BET* YOU ARE,

LISA:

OKAY, JUST MAKING SURE.

ALLYCAT:

THANK YOU.

THE FUCK IS WITH THE LONG ASS PAUSES BETWEEN THESE SHORT MESSAGES?

SHE'S A FAST TYPIST...

NO, *WAIT!*

SHE'S TAKING TIME THINKING UP REPLIES!

IT'S...

SHE'S... LYING.

YES... I WAS A *MORON.*

TRUTH WAS, ALLY'S RESPONSES TOOK LONGER THAN USUAL BECAUSE...

WELL..

AARRGGHH!!!

DAMN IT, TYPE RIGHT YOU PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A THUMB!!!

ON HER PHONE, SHE COULDN'T TYPE FOR SHIT WITH HER LEFT HAND.

NEVER IN MY LIFE HAVE I CHECKED MY CELL PHONE SO MANY TIMES IN SUCH A SHORT TIME.

ALWAYS FEELING THE SAME MIXTURE OF ANGER AND HOPE, ONLY TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MIX OF ANGER AND DESPAIR AFTER NO MESSAGES WERE RECEIVED...

SAME WAS TRUE FOR ALLY...

EXCUSE ME!

HUH?

YOUR BAG!

OH..UM YEAH, SORRY! THANK YOU!

WE BOTH KEPT OBSESSIVELY GLANCING AT THE SCREENS, HALF HOPING WE JUST MISSED THE NOTICE...

OH CWAP!

BA-BLIP

BOTH HOPING THE *OTHER* WOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE..

SADLY... BUSINESS AS USUAL.

COINCIDENTALLY... BUSINESS MAIL.

FONOWA FICH!

SLAM

IN THE END WE WERE TOO PROUD AND TOO ANGRY.

WE SAID THINGS...

THINGS THAT ***MEANT*** TO HURT...

AFTER ALL, THAT'S HOW I ROLL! I JUST FUCK ***ALL*** OF MY FRIENDS!

WELL...AS FAR AS YOUR FRIENDS GO I ONLY KNOW OF ALAN

SO FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, YOU ARE TWO FOR TWO!

THINGS THAT ***DID*** HURT.. A LOT.

OUR WORDS REFLECTED OUR OWN FEARS.

ALLY'S FEAR THAT AFTER ALL HER SIGNALS, I STILL SAW IN HER ***JUST*** A FRIEND. JUST LIKE ***ALAN*** WAS...

I SHARED THE SAME FEAR. AND YET, THERE WAS MORE TO IT... I FELT... I DON'T KNOW, REPLACEABLE.

I MEAN, I KNEW THAT ALLY COULD TAKE UP ANY SUB...

AND THAT ***SCARED*** ME.

WAH!

OH...

SIGH...

BALALEEP

BALALEEP

BALALEEP

HEY, ANNE!

HEY, TYSON! HOW'S THE ***ARM?***

I'LL LIVE, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

NOTHING MUCH. WAITING FOR A CLIENT TO ARRIVE SO I WANTED TO CHECK UP ON YOU.

THANKS!

ALSO, LOOK AT IT FROM THE BRIGHT SIDE,YOU CAN NOW DRESS LISA UP AS A SEXY NURSE AND...

SHE... SHE LEFT. FOR A FEW DAYS AT LEAST.

OH.... UM CRAP...

I...UH... YOU NEED SOME COMPANY?

OR...I DON'T KNOW...

NO... NOT TODAY,. BUT ***THANK YOU*** ANNE... FOR EVERYTHING!

DON'T MENTION IT...

IF YOU NEED ***ANYTHING...*** JUST ***CALL*** ME, OKAY?

WILL DO.

ALLY LIKED ANNE JUST FINE

BUT SHE WAS HURT.

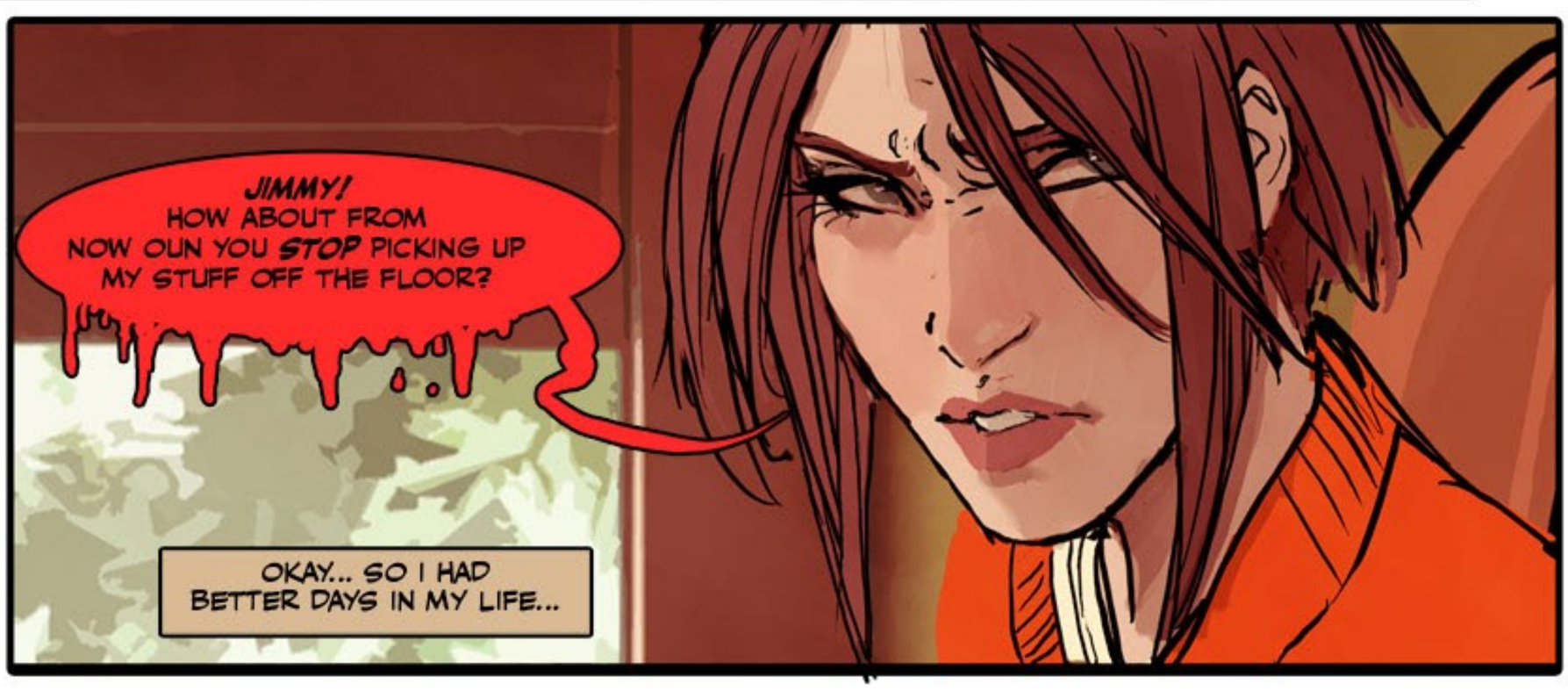
THAT DAY SHE NEEDED THE COMPANY AND COMFORT FROM A FAR MORE... BIASED? FRIEND.

YEAH...

FUCK THIS!
AND FUCK CELLPHONES!

BONKERS!
NO!

LISA? THIS YOUR CELLPHONE?
I FOUND IT ON THE FL..


JIMMY! HOW ABOUT FROM NOW OUN YOU STOP PICKING UP MY STUFF OFF THE FLOOR?
OKAY... SO I HAD BETTER DAYS IN MY LIFE...

CA-CLICK

SO DID ALLY...

ALAN, ARE YOU...

!

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?

THEN AGAIN... SO DID *ALAN*...

WHAT'S WITH THE ARM?

ARM!? WHAT'S WITH... EVERYTHING?

LONG STORY...
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME. I'LL GET DRESSED.

YOU WANT COFFE?
HUH? OH, YEAH, SURE!

SO, JIMMY IS SCARED OF YOU.
HE TOUCHED MY STUFF!
RIGHT... HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MIKE?
ME? NOTHING! YOU SEEM LIKE YOU COULD USE A CUP OF TEA.
AWWW... NO, REALLY! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HEH...
I DON'T KNOW...
KINDA HOPED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME STUFF...
IF IT'S RELATIONSHIP STUFF, WE ARE CLOSED DUE TO LACK OF EXPERTISE!
O---KAY? SO UM... HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOU, THEN?
YOU CAN TELL ME, YOU KNOW...

SINCE WHEN ARE *YOU* THE LISTENER?

WHY *YES!* IT WAS MY INTENTION TO HURT AND ALIENATE *EVERYONE* I CARED ABOUT THAT DAY.

FEEL FREE TO HATE ME. I DO.

YEAH...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

UGH...

UM... SO... HOW COME YOU ARE STAYING HERE MIKE?

TURNS OUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT ACUPRESSURIST...

CAUSE I HIT THAT NERVE FAST!

MIKE?

ALLY HOWEVER... THAT AMATEUR TOOK OVER AN HOUR TO HIT *ALAN'S* NERVE!

I MEAN... *REALLY?*

AND WHAT DO I FUCKING FIND???

A NOTE!!!

WHO THE FUCK LEAVES A SITUATION LIKE THAT WITH JUST A NOTE!?

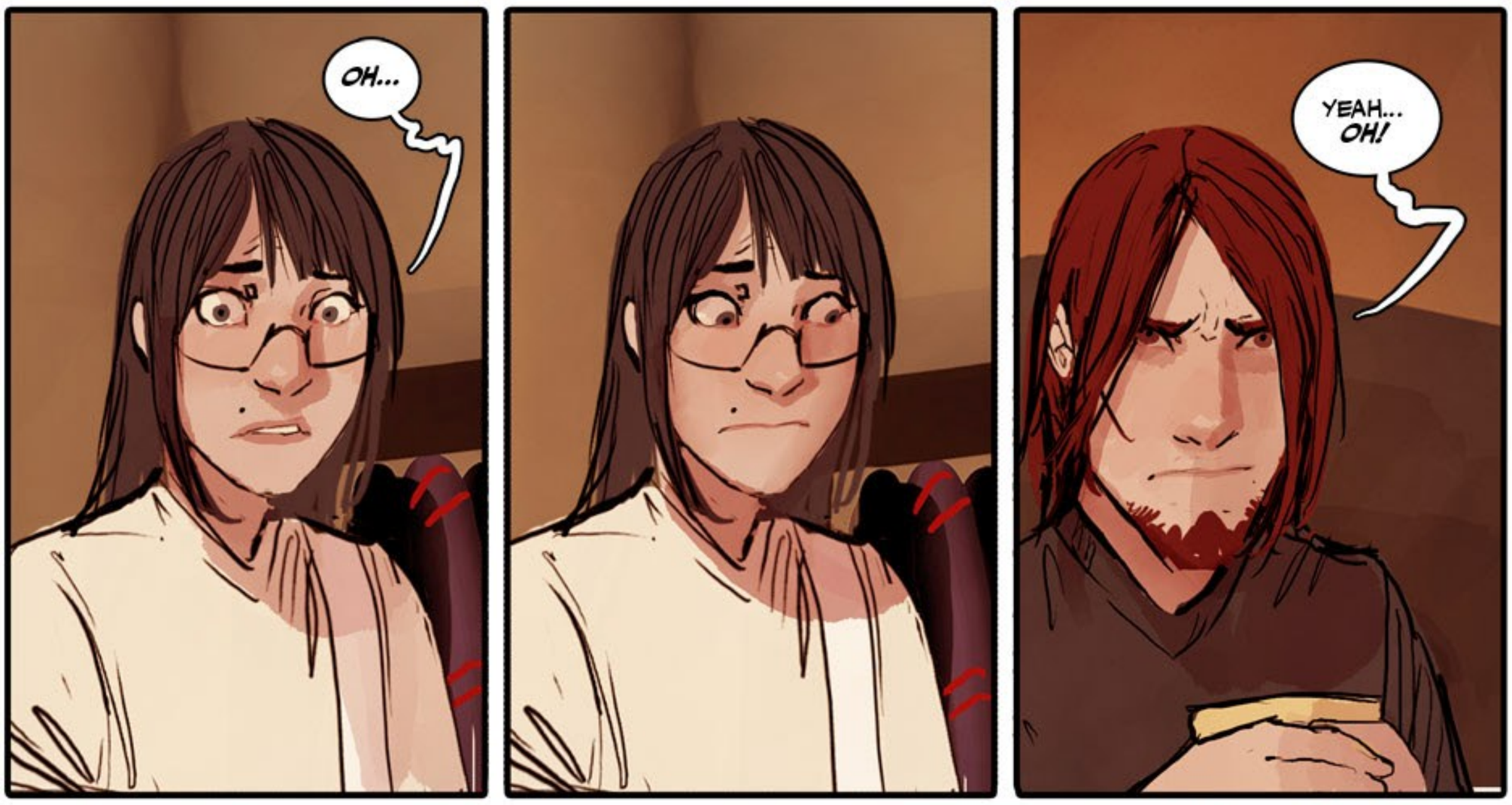
WHO THE FUCK DOES THAT!?

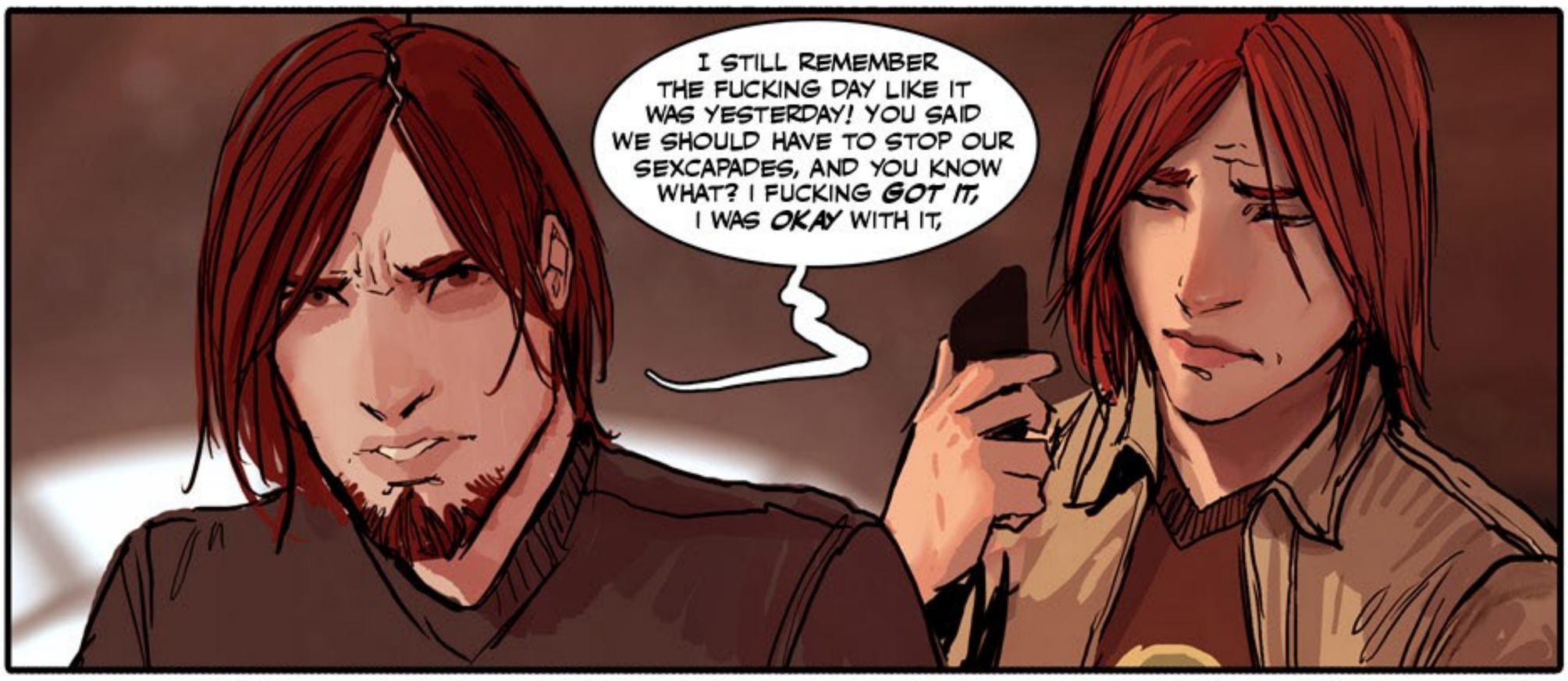
YOU...

YOU FUCKING DID THAT!

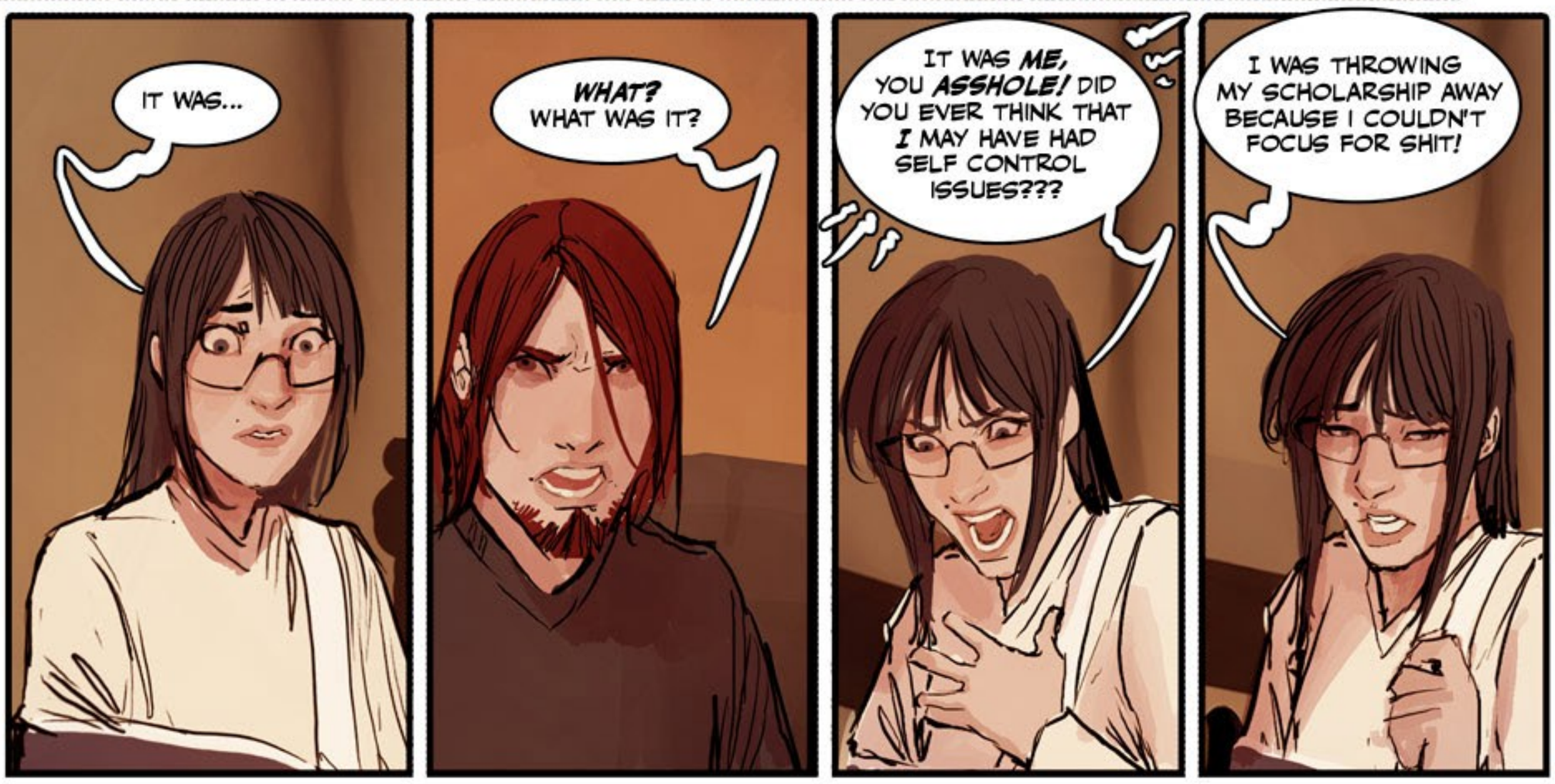
SO THAT TIME WHEN ALLY TOLD ME OF ALAN AND HER?

SHE MAY HAVE OMMITED A FEW DETAILS.


OH...
YEAH... OH!


I STILL REMEMBER THE FUCKING DAY LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY! YOU SAID WE SHOULD HAVE TO STOP OUR SEXCAPADES, AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I FUCKING GOT IT, I WAS OKAY WITH IT,

BUT YOU DIDN'T JUST DO THAT, DID YOU? IT WASN'T JUST THE SEX... YOU FUCKING SURGICALLY REMOVED YOURSELF FROM MY LIFE.
AND ALL I GOT WAS A FEW MESSAGES. I NEED TO CONCENTRATE, I CAN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU ANYMORE. PLEASE UNDERSTAND.


IT WAS...
WHAT? WHAT WAS IT?
IT WAS ME, YOU ASSHOLE! DID YOU EVER THINK THAT I MAY HAVE HAD SELF CONTROL ISSUES???
I WAS THROWING MY SCHOLARSHIP AWAY BECAUSE I COULDN'T FOCUS FOR SHIT!

I... GET OBSESSIVE ABOUT STUFF... I DON'T KNOW...

OKAY...

MY PREVIOUS MMO GAME I PLAYED SO MUCH THAT TO QUIT I HAD TO FLAT OUT DELETE MY ACCOUNT, ALL MY CHARACTERS... ***EVERYTHING!***

BECAUSE... I KEPT COMING ***BACK*** TO IT...

YEAH NO, ***PERFECT*** METAPHOR!

I...

ARGH...

I ***GET IT,*** ALLY...

I DO...

BUT, MEANWHILE, I WAS COMPLETELY ALONE...

THAT DAY WHEN THEY PASTED MY SKETCHBOOK ON THE HALLWAYS, THAT PRETTY MUCH MADE ME A PERMANENT BUTT OF EVERYONE'S JOKES.

BUT WITH YOU, I DIDN'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT WHAT ANYONE THOUGHT...

BEYOND ALL THE SEX STUFF...

I HAD SOMEONE I COULD ***TALK*** WITH... ***LAUGH*** WITH...

AND THEN YOU LEFT...

I ENDED UP GETTING ONE NEW FRIEND AFTER YOU! JUST ***ONE!***

AND EVEN THAT WAS BECAUSE CHRIS WAS A BIT OF AN OUTCAST HIMSELF.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE ***OVER*** THIS...

I MEAN... YOU ***TOLD*** ME...

I... ***I WAS.*** IT'S JUST..

ARGH, ***FUCK IT!***

HERE GOES...

OKAY, SO ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, I MET SOMEONE IN THE CRIMSON... SARAH BENES

WAIT... AS IN SARAH BENES FROM *COLLEGE?*

YEAH.

SHE'S INTO BDSM?

NO, SHE WAS THERE TO INTERVIEW HARPER FOR SOME ARTICLE...

SO IT TURNS OUT SHE WAS INTO ME IN COLLEGE BUT SINCE MY NAME WAS MUDD SHE STAYED CLEAR AWAY FROM ME.

ANYWAYS, WE HOOKED UP...

IT'S WEIRD, Y'KNOW. EVER SINCE MARION, I WAS UNABLE TO GET MYSELF TO CONNECT WITH ANYONE...

NO! NOT SINCE MARION... IT WASN'T EVEN HER... EVER SINCE THE NIGHT I SPENT AT THE POLICE STATION.

I... HAD TO HOLD HER. SHE WAS PANICKING WANTED TO TAKE THE NOOSES OFF WITH HER TEETH... I HELD HER TILL THE MEDICS ARRIVED.

AMBULANCE CAME REMARKABLY FAST...

DOCTOR LATER ASSURED ME THAT I PROBABLY *SAVED* HER LIFE... BUT ALL I WAS THINKING WAS OF HER *SCREAMING*... BEGGING ME TO TAKE THE NOOSES OFF...

IT WAS *AWFUL* ALAN RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL... EVEN HAD TO GO THROUGH *POLICE INTERROGATION* BUT IT ALL ENDED WELL... SURGEON SAVED HER HANDS, REMOVED THE LARGER CLOTS, AND SHE WAS KEPT FOR OBSERVATION...

I REMEMBER...

I TOLD YOU I WAS QUESTIONED...BUT.. TRUTH WAS, IT WAS WORSE...

IT WASN'T ANY OBJECTIVE QUESTIONING. THEY... THEY THOUGHT I DID THAT TO HER, I LEFT HER TIED UP LIKE THAT. SO THESE TWO SELF RIGHTEOUS MOTHERFUCKERS OF COPS SPENT FOUR HOURS EXPLAINING TO ME WHAT KIND OF A HUMAN FILTH I WAS AND WHAT THEY DO TO GUYS LIKE ME IN JAIL...

ALL THE WHILE I WAS LOSING MY MIND NOT EVEN REALLY KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED, OR WHETHER OR NOT SHE WAS ALL RIGHT.

OH GOD... ALAN, YOU NEVER TOLD ME...

YOU DID ENOUGH...

YOU CAME.. TOLD THEM WHAT HAPPENNED, AND YOU SAVED THE DAY AGAIN.

STILL... THAT DAY CHANGED ME. AND NOT FOR THE BETTER.

THAT INTERROGATION, THE JUDGEMENT, THE DISGUIST IN THEIR EYES...

A PART OF ME FELT LIKE I FELT IN COLLEGE.

LIKE ALL THAT SHIT THEY SAID ABOUT ME WAS SOMEHOW ***TRUE...***

I THINK THAT WAS IN PART WHY I ENDED IT WITH MARION...

ANYWAYS... DETAILS DON'T MATTER... WHAT MATTERS IS I DECIDED TO GIVE UP ON BDSM...

I DID MY JOB, MOSTLY BECAUSE I DRAGGED CHRIS INTO IT... I WASN'T GING TO LEAVE HIM HANGING.

TO AN EXTENT I STILL LIKED IT... BUT THE FIRE WAS GONE.

AND HERE IS THE KICKER, SARAH ACTUALLY WASN'T INTO BDSM, SHE WANTED TO DO IT STRICTLY VANILLA, SHE MADE THAT CLEAR... AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I WAS ***GLAD!***

TWO DAYS AGO WE MADE LOVE... IT WAS SIMPLE, SHE WAS NERVOUS, AND HONESTLY , SO WAS I. AND YOU KNOW WHAT? IT WAS ***AWESOME!***

IT ALL ***SEEMED*** AWESOME.

AND THEN YESTERDAY, SHE WALKS INTO A MEETING WHILE I'M TAKING MEASURMENTS FOR A SET OF PERFORMANCE OUTFITS, AND THE WHOLE DAY SHE KEEPS GIVING ME SHIT ABOUT IT.

SEE IN THE GLORIOUS FUCKING EXPLOSION OF IRONY, SHE DIDN'T TRUST ME BECAUSE I WORKED WITH THESE PERFORMERS... SO WE HAD A MASSIVE FALLOUT.

YOU KNOW WHAT, ATLEAST ***BDSM*** IS BASED ON ***TRUST*** WHICH IS MORE THAT WE HAVE HERE!

OH, TRUST, MY ASS! GO FUCK YOURSELF YOU PERVERTED SHIT! ***NEVER*** CALL ME AGAIN!

AAND... THEN I GOT PISSY, THREW A TEMPER TANTRUM AND REDECORATED MY APARTMENT

WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?

I FIGURED SINCE YOU WERE CALLING ME LESS AND LESS OFTEN, I FELT.. I DON'T KNOW... OBSOLETE.

YOU AND LISA HAD YOUR OWN THING GOING...

ALSO...

I WAS A BIT... JEALOUS.

WHAT?

SINCE YOU STARTED DOING IT WITH LISA, I WAS KINDA JEALOUS, A BIT RESENTFUL. YOU KNOW, A BIT MORE EAGER TO POKE FUN AT YOU.

SO THAT TALK WE HAD , WHEN YOU IMPLIED I SHOULD QUESTION HER MOTIFS... WAS THAT YOUR ***RESENTMENT*** TALKING?

WHAT? NO! LISTEN, NO MATTER WHAT YOU MAY THINK OF ME NOW, I DO STILL LOVE YOU AS A BEST FRIEND ONLY CAN... I NEVER WANTTED YOU TO FAIL

THING IS , WHEN I SAW THAT YOU WERE ACTUALLY FALLING FOR HER.. I WAS HAPPY FOR YOU... I REALLY WAS.

AND YET AT THE SAME TIME I WAS FREAKING OUT.. WE USED TO CALL EACH OTHER DAILY, MEET FOR COFFEE, PLAY GAMES, WATCH MOVIES... AND I SAW THAT ERODE HELL, WE HAVEN'T EVEN ***TALKED*** FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS.

I FELT THAT I WAS LOSING YOU AGAIN... DON'T GET ME WRONG, , IT WASN'T SOME POSESSIVE POWERTRIP, IT WAS JUST...WELL...

FUCK, I NEVER HAD A FRIEND IN MY LIFE THAT COULD EVEN ***REMOTELY*** COMPARE TO YOU... YOU KNOW...

IT'S... ITS WEIRD, I JOKE ABOUT US BOINKING AND SHIT LIKE THAT, BUT HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN CONSIDER YOU BOINKABLE...

I MEAN, SURE! I'LL PITCH A RANDOM TENT IF I SEE YOU WEARING MY CREATIONS, BUT THAT'S MORE BECAUSE I'M THAT DAMN GOOD AT MAKING OUTFITS!

WELL.. THANKS... I THINK?

I'M SERIOUS! YOU MEAN TOO MUCH TO ME, AND, WELL... OLD FEARS STARTED CREEPING IN AND HONESTLY, I STARTED PANICKING.

GOT THAT OLD FEELING OF BEING ***DITCHED***, YOU KNOW...

YOU NEVER GAVE ME ANY SIGN

I AM A ***GUY*** ALLY... WE DON'T DO SIGNS WELL... WHEN WE ARE KIDS WE PULL THE HAIR OF GIRLS WE LIKE... WE TROLL OUR BEST FRIENDS...

I SPILL MILK ON YOU AND TAKE A PHOTO!

IT' WAS A CALL FOR ***HELP***, REALLY!

SURE IT WAS... IT WASN'T AT ALL REVENGE FOR THE PHOTO OF YOU IN MAKEUP I HAVE!

HEH... YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I MISSED THIS...

TRUTH IS LAST TWO YEARS HAVE TURNED ME INTO A BIT OF A BITTER MEAN ASSHOLE...

I HAD QUITE A FEW SHITTY TIMES IN MY LIFE... YOU HELPED ME THROUGH MANY OF THEM...

IT IS KINDA FUNNY THO...

?

YOU TOO LEFT ME BY MEANS OF A NOTE. AND YET, IT WASN'T THE END OF US.

HEH...YEAH. HERE WE ARE.

HERE WE ARE.

WOW... THIS JUST WENT FULL CIRCLE..

HEH... I GUESS.

SO YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD... WHAT? GIVE HER *TIME?*

HOW THE FUCK SHOULD I KNOW? WHAT PART OF OUR CONVERSATION MADE YOU THINK: ***THIS GUY!*** THIS GUY WHOSE ***EVERY*** RELATIONSHIP EVER CRASHED AND BURNED ***HE*** KNOWS HIS RELATIONSHIP SHIT!

HEH... HAH... AHAHAHAH!

OKAY, SO WE'RE BOTH MOPEY...

AND USELESS!

AND USELESS!

ALCOHOL?

LOTS!

NOW, I'LL SPARE YOU THE BOREDOM OF LISTENING ABOUT THE REST OF MY DAY AS IT MOSTLY CONSISTED OF MY MOM TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN ***ALL*** HER KIDS CAME HOME...

INSTEAD LET'S MOVE ON TO NEXT MORNING AND THE AFTERMATH OF ALLY AND ALAN'S BINGE.

RIIIGHT...

SO ***THIS*** IS NOW APPARENTLY A THING...

YEP! GONNA NEED SOME CONTEXT RIGHT ABOUT NOW! COME ON! LOAD, BRAIN! ***LOAD!***

OKAY, YEAH...WE STARTED DRINKING...

THEN AFTER A FEW DRINKS OUR CONVERSATIONS TURNED TO... ***PAST*** I GUESS?

I'M JUST SAYING, YOU ***ALWAYS*** KINDA LEANED THAT WAY

OH ***COME ON!*** NO I DIDN'T!

REALLY? YOU MADE ME SHAVE MY GOATEE AND THEN THERE WAS THE WHOLE LIPSTICK THING....

THAT WAS BECAUSE...

FUCK...

SOOOO... WE DRANK MORE...

AND THEN? ***OH,*** RIGHT.

...

THAT WHOLE THING!

BLARGH!

YEAH...

ENDED UP GETTING SOME ON MY SHIRT...

HEH... I GOT HIM THIS SHIRT FOR HIS BIRTHDAY

RIGHT...

GOT PLASTERED AND VOMITED... EH!

COULD HAVE BEEN WORSE!

UNIMPRESSED

BELELEP

OH FOR FUCK SAKE! WHO...

LISA!!!

ARGH... COME ON!!!

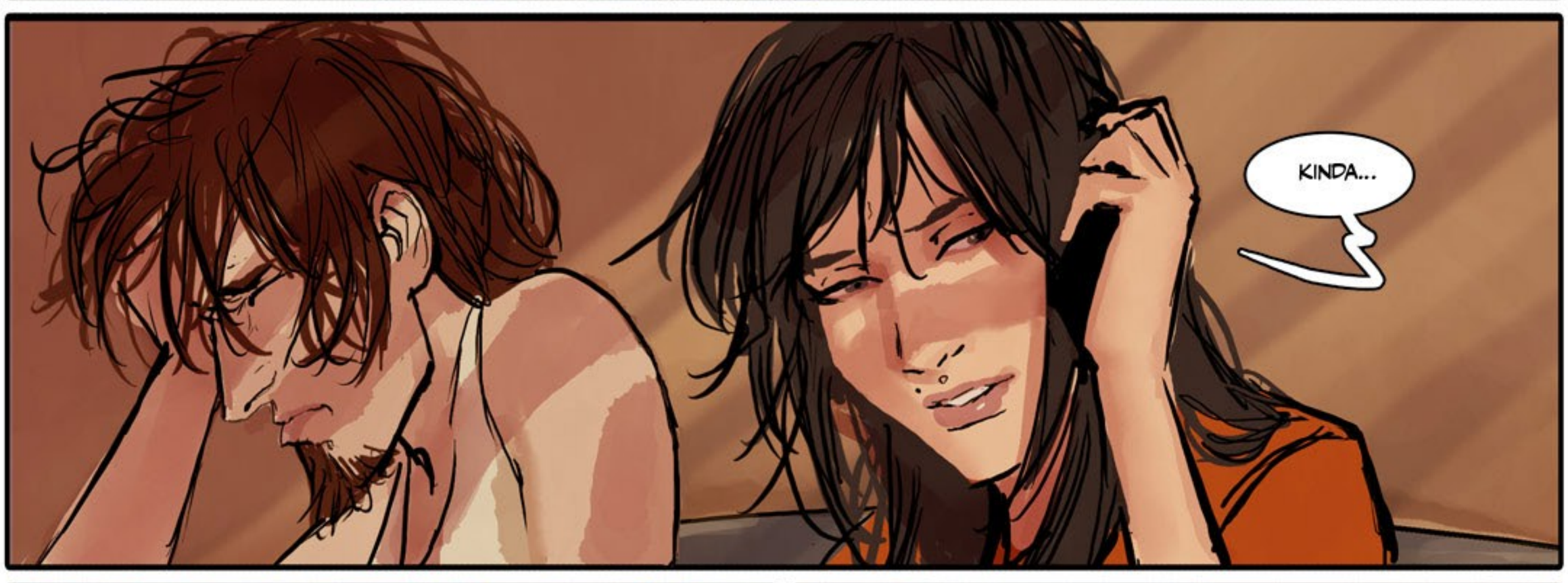
BELELEP

OH...

SIGH...

HEY, ANNE.

HOLY CRAP, YOU SOUND *WRECKED!* ROUGH NIGHT?

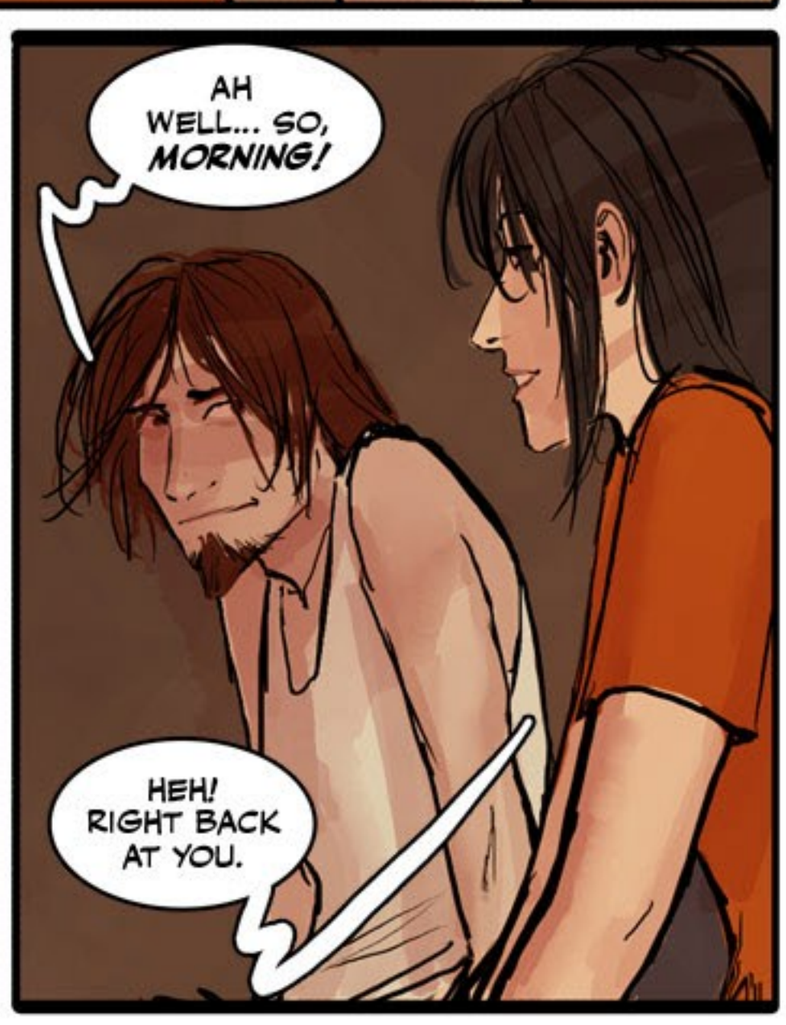

KINDA...

SO, LISTEN! I'M OFF FOR SOME COFFEE AT THE *LAIR,* THAT PLACE WHERE WE GOT ALL SHIT-FACED OUR FIRST NIGHT. WANNA JOIN?

HEH... YOU KNOW WHAT? *SURE!*
I NEED COFFEE... *LOTS* OF IT.

MEET YOU IN TWENTY, THEN. OKAY?
YEAH

LISA?
NO...


AH WELL... SO, *MORNING!*
HEH! RIGHT BACK AT YOU.

HOW YOU FEELING?
LIKE THERE IS A DEATH METAL MOSH PIT IN MY SINUSES...
UNIMPRESSED

YEAH... SIMILAR CASE HERE.
SO HERE'S A THOUGHT!
YOU WANNA JOIN ME AND A FRIEND FOR SOME COFFEE?

HM...

YEAH. I GUESS... WHY NOT?

SO?
SO WHAT?
WAS IT AS GOOD AS YOU IMAGINED IT?
WHAT WAS?
UNIMPRESSED
SLEEPING WITH ME AGAIN!
YEAH...THEIR FRIENDSHIP WAS BACK ON TRACK...
UNIMPRESSED

SO, FUNNY THING! ALLY THOUGHT: HEY, MY BEST FRIEND IS LONELY! MIGHT AS WELL INTRODUCE HIM TO THIS COOL GIRL I KNOW!

HEY, BLONDIE!

HEY, ALL...

I MEAN, IIT MADE SENSE!

WUH- *WHAT?*

THEY SHARED QUITE A FEW INTERESTS

ALLY THOUGHT... WHO KNOWS, THEY MIGHT HIT IT OFF...

OH COME ON I KNOW I'M NOT ALL CAKED IN MAKE UP AND DRESSED UP, BUT I DON'T LOOK *THAT* BAD!

WELL I'LL BE A SONOFA...

I ♥ GEN

HELL, MAYBE IT WOULD EVEN END UP WITH LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT...

LONG TIME NO SEE, *ALAN!*

PROBLEM WAS, THIS WASN'T THEIR FIRST SIGHT...

HUH?

I WON'T GO INTO THE WHOLE ANNE AND ALAN THING... THEY HAVE A STORY OF THEIR OWN AND I INTEND TO TELL IT AT IT'S OWN TIME.

INSTEAD, WE WILL MOVE ON A BIT.

IT'S BEEN SIX DAYS SINCE I LEFT ALLY'S HOUSE... SIX DAYS OF MOPING AROUND MY PARENTS' HOUSE WAS QUITE ENOUGH FOR MY MOTHER, AND SHE INSISTED ON ME GOING OUTSIDE.

MEET SOME FRIENDS!

EVEN THOUGH I FELT LIKE A KID GETTING SCOLDED BY MY MOM, HER SUGGESTION WASN'T A ***BAD*** ONE.

SO, THESE TWO LADIES ARE MIRIAM AND WANDA... THEY WERE MY FRIENDS FOR YEARS.

BOTH ASPIRING WRITERS. WE MET DURING MY ***BRIEF*** ATTEMPT AT FREQUENTING CREATIVE WRITING CLASSES.

MIRIAM IS NOW AN EDITOR IN CHIEF AT A BIG NEWSPAPER.

WANDA A PROFESSIONAL SCREENWRITER.

....I HAVE NO REGRETS.

SO, WHAT ABOUT ***YOUR*** WRITING?

PUBLISHED ANYTHING?

ME.. WELL... YOU KNOW ME.

NAH... STILL JUST... I DON'T KNOW... PICKING THE RIGHT ***WORDS*** I GUESS

I USED TO ENJOY THEIR COMPANY... SMALL GOSSIPS AND BIG IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS

BUT HERE IS THE THING... AFTER FINDING NEW FRIENDS, FRIENDS AROUND WHOM I COULD TRULY BE MYSELF....

THIS... THIS FELT HOLLOW, ***FAKE!***

TURNS OUT, ***JUST*** AS PEOPLE DO, FRIENDSHIPS CHANGE AS WELL...

THE IDEA OF THEM LASTING FOR A LIFETIME IS OFTEN NOTHING BUT A ROMANTICIZED BIT OF WISHFUL THINKING.

IT WASN'T ***THEM.***

MIRIAM AND WANDA WERE JUST AS GREAT AS I REMEMBERED THEM.

IT WAS ***ME.***

TRUTH IS...

THEY DIDN'T KNOW ME

AND, HONESTLY, I MISSED THE FRIENDS THAT DID..

I NEVER CALLED ANNE. IT WAS THE DOUBTS OF THE NIGHT SHE TOOK ALLY HOME.

I AVOIDED CASSIE AS WELL. SHE WAS ANNE'S BEST FRIEND AFTER ALL.

SO, THERE I WAS, IN A SELF IMPOSED, SELF CAUSED EXILE.

MISSING MY FRIENDS....

MISSING ALLY...

I WANTED TO TALK TO HER...

I WANTED TO GO ***HOME.***

DA-DING-DONG

JUST A ...

HEY!

....

HEY, ANNE.

UM...*BAD* TIME?

MEH, IT'S RARELY GOOD TIME THESE DAYS

COME IN!

SORRY BOUT THE MESS... DEADLINES AND A MESSED UP ARM... HAD TO PRIORITIZE.

IT'S...NOT *THAT* BAD.

MYEAH...

SO WHERE WERE YOU? I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU SINCE THAT DAY WITH ALAN.

LIKE I SAID, ***DEADLINES.***

AND... YOUR ARM ANY BETTER?

MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW... IT'S OKAY WHEN I KEEP IT ELEVATED BUT IF DON'T IT POUNDS WITH PAIN WHEN I WALK.

DIDN'T YOU HAVE THAT ARM CRADLE THING.

BROKE THE BUCKLE... PLASTIC PIECE OF CRAP...

LISA ***STILL*** NOT BACK?

HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER... I GOT A FEW MESSAGES THE DAY AFTER OUR FALLOUT... NOTHING SINCE THEN.

YEAH...
WELL... I GOT NO MESSAGES
FUCK HER!
I DESERVED THIS, AND MORE.
YOU GOT A DISHWASHER OR YOU DO IT BY HAND?
HUH?
I'LL HELP YOU CLEAN YOUR HOUSE!
WHAT??? NO!
YES!
I CAN...
YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE YOU KEEP YOUR CLEANING SUPPLIES!
ANNE, NO!
ALLY, YES!

BUT...

NO BUTS!

NOW, I'VE HEARD QUITE A BIT ABOUT THOSE ***MAID UNIFORMS*** YOU APPARENTLY OWN....

ALLY HADN'T LAUGHED IN DAYS...

SHE HAD LITTLE REASONS TO EVEN SMILE.

THEN ANNE CAME ALONG.

SHE WAS THERE WHEN I WASN'T...BEING THE FRIEND I PRETENDED TO BE

IF YOU ARE MISSING MY SUBTLE HINTS, I AM WRITING THIS WHILE CHANNELLING A FAIR BIT OF SELF LOATHING...

HEH, I DO HAVE THEM.. IT'S JUST...

SEE, ALL THREE OUTFITS ARE ACTUALLY ***VERY*** ELABORATE AND REQUIRE HELP TO PUT ON. AS IT IS, I CAN'T REALLY HELP WITH THAT...

I WAS JUST KIDDING

WELL... ***HALF*** KIDDING!

ANNE INTENDED TO DROP BY FOR A QUICK VISIT THAT DAY.

JUST TO CHECK UP ON ALLY...

HOWEVER, THAT PLAN GOT TRASHED FAST.

PLAN B WAS NICE, THOUGH...

SO?

IT'S A REALLY COOL SKETCH COLLECTION!

RIGHT!? YOU WANNA CONTRIBUTE TO IT?

WE'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT!

SOO THIS DOMINATRIX CAT THING... SEEMS TO BE A THEME OF YOUR COLLECTION

HEH...

YEAH... I GUESS...

THING IS, I WAS VISITING MY COMIC BOOK STORE AND THEY HAD THIS LOCAL ARTIST THERE WHO WAS APPARENTLY KNOWN FOR DRAWING SOME TALKING ANIMALS COMIC...

SHE WAS DOING SKETCHES FOR STORE PATRONS WHO BOUGHT THIS PACKAGE DEAL OF COMICS...

I THOUGHT... EH, WHY NOT?

SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR A SKETCH?

FOR YEARS NOW, WHEREVER I COULD, I WOULD NAME MY FORUM AND VIDEOGAME ACCOUNTS AS ***ALLYCAT***...

SO I FIGURED...

UM... IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH... UM MEE AS A... CAT...UM... ***DOMINATRIX***...

ONE THING LEAD TO ANOTHER AND NOW I HAVE A COLLECTION OF COMIC BOOK DOMINATRIX CATS! NOW, SPEAKING OF COMICS, I DID SAY YOU NEEDED TO READ SOME OF MINE!

SO, YOU'LL NEED TO READ THIS ONE AND THIS ONE!

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

FILLER GARBAGE!

GOOD ART, THOUGH!

IT TURNED OUT TO BE AN UNEXPECTEDLY FUN DAY FOR ALLY.

LIKE ME, ANNE RELATED TO SOME OF HER INTERESTS...

NOT SO MUCH TO OTHERS

OKAY, ***SERIOUSLY!*** WHAT'S WITH YOU AND ALL THE ***HEELS?***

WHAT? I LIKE THEM! YOU ***DON'T?***

I LIKE THEM FINE BUT NOT LIKE *FORTY PAIRS "LIKE THEM"!*

IT'S NOT FORTY PAIRS!

NOT MUCH LESS.

WELL... THEY MAKE ME FEEL... I DON'T KNOW... AWESOME!

PRECARIOUSLY TIPTOING AROUND ON A SIX INCH STILETTO MAKES YOU FEEL AWESOME???

I...GUESS.

WELL, I LOOK AWESOME WEARING THEM!

AND HAVE YOU HEARD THE SOUND THOSE MAKE???

EVERY STEP IS LIKE A FRIGGIN THUNDER-CLAP!

TRY IT!

CAN YOU SPOT THE BIGGER FETISHIST?

NOOOO THANK YOU! ONLY SOUNDS THOSE WOULD MAKE ON ME IS A SHRIEK AND A THUD AS I COLAPSED!

STILL, COMMON INTERESTS OR NOT...

THEY WERE HAVING A BLAST.

AND SHERYLL REALLY GOT INTO THEATER THESE DAYS

ME ON THE OTHER HAND?

UM....

YEAH, NO, BACK TO ALLY AND ANNE!

SO, DO I LEAVE THE BROOM HERE, OR ITS THIS LIKE YOUR STRAP ON DILDO CLOSET?

NOPE... JUST THE REGULAR OLD PANTRY!

ALSO, LOOK AT YOU KNOWING WHAT A STRAP-ON DILDO IS?

ALLY, I'M ***BI!***

I MAY NOT KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU DO ABOUT SEX TOYS, BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS A ***CHANCE*** THAT DILDO BAGGINS MIGHT MAKE IT ***THERE AND BACK AGAIN!***

KHHHH!!!

GHWAKKK COUGH!!!

AGAIN WITH THAT CHARMING LAUGH OF YOURS!

YOU ***IDIOT,*** I ALMOST CHOKED!

SERIOUSLY, THOUGH! THAT JOKE WAS ***AWFUL!***

HEH, HEARD IT IN COLLEGE... AND HEY! ***YOU*** LAUGHED!

KEPT THAT ONE READY FOR A WHILE, HUH?

OH I GOT A ***BUNCH*** OF THEM

WHAT CAN I SAY? NOT MANY OF MY CONVERSATIONS WANDER INTO DILDO TERRITORIES

I TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN IT PRESENTS ITSELF!

ANYWAYS I'M NOT BIG ON STRAP ON DILDOS!

THIS SURPRISES YOU?

REALLY?

DUNNO... JUST FIGURED YOU'D FIND THEM... ***USEFUL,*** I GUESS?

I MEAN... YEAH THEY ARE ***THAT.***

FUNNY THING IS I ONLY USED ONE LIKE.. TWO OR THREE TIMES SO FAR..

BUT... WHEN THE TWO OF YOU TOLD ME OF YOUR, UM... ADVENTURES, MOST OF THEM INCLUDED YOU USING A STRAP...

IT'S BEEN A FEW HOURS SINCE SHE THOUGHT OF ME...

RIGHT... TOUCHY SUBJECT.

NAH, IT'S OKAY...

IT'S THE LACK OF FEEDBACK FOR ME...

HUH?

WHY I DON'T REALLY LIKE STRAP-ON DILDOS ALL THAT MUCH...

NICE SEGUAE...

:SHRUG:

OKAY, I'LL BITE! WHAT ABOUT THIS LACK OF FEEDBACK?

I DON'T REALLY... *GET* THAT MUCH FROM IT

LIKE... YOU KNOW... ***STIMULATION-WISE.***

SOME LOVE IT... ME? I DON'T KNOW... NOT SO MUCH

AAH...

SO... WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY USE?

I MEAN... IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING?

NO-NO, IT'S FINE! AT MOST TIMES I PREFER USING ***ANOTHER*** KIND OF A STRAP-ON THING

IT CAN HOLD A WAND IN JUST THE RIGHT PLACE PLUS I GOT A DECENT ASSORTMENT OF WAND ATTACHMENTS...

POINT IS, THAT WAY I CAN... WE BOTH CAN KINDA... YOU KNOW, HIT THE ***RIGHT*** SPOT. ***GRIND*** FOR THE WIN!

SO YEAH... I PREFER THAT PERSONALLY.

I MEAN, IT CAN BE A BIT EXHAUSTING

BUT DEFINITELY ***MY*** FAVORITE KIND OF POUNDING!

HUFF ... PANT ...

POUNDING?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU "***GRIND*** FOR THE WIN"

HEH

WELL, I STILL CALL IT POUNDING...

GRINDING MAKES ME THINK OF LOOT DROPS AND XP GAINS.

YEAH, SURE! LET'S ***PRETEND*** I UNDERSTOOD THAT!

VIDEOGAME LINGO...

RIGHT...
ALLY...
HUH?
THIS MAY HAVE BEEN THE *DUMBEST* CONVERSATION I'VE EVER HAD IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.
;SNOR-SPLURT;
GHTKKKK...COUGHH...GHAHAHAH..COUGH!
OH FOR FUCK SAKE! GIVE ME THAT GLASS BEFORE YOU CHOKE TO DEATH!
NO! COUGH! I NEED IT!!!
GIMME!
IT WAS A DUMB CONVERSATION. BUT IT WAS JUST THE DUMB CONVERSATION THAT ALLY NEEDED.
AS FOR ANNE... WELL, SHE REALIZED THE SEXUAL TENSION CAUSED BY MY STORIES WAS GONE...
THANK YOU, ANNE... FOR EVERYTHING.
ALLY FROM THOSE STORIES... SHE WAS A PALE IMITATION
ANNE STARTED CARING ABOUT THE REAL PERSON...

IT WAS CARING THAT MADE HER NOTICE JUST HOW FAST EVERY SMILE ABANDONED ALLY'S EYES...

AND THAT ANGERED HER...

I...ANGERED HER..

IT WAS AROUND 9 P.M. I WAS SITTING IN MY PARENTS LIVING ROOM TRYING TO WRITE... ANYTHING

TRYING TO KEEP MY THOUGHTS ON ANYTHING ELSE BUT ALLY...

II WAS FAILING MISERABLY... AT BOTH

AND THEN...

Anne

DELE-LEEP

I GOT THE PHONE CALL WHICH WAS A LONG TIME COMING...

I CONSIDERED NOT ANSWERING...

BUT IT WAS MY CHANCE TO FIND OUT.

HEY, ANNE...

SO... IF YOU RECALL, I USED TO DABBLE IN FANTASY...

NOT SEXUAL FANTASY... WITH THOSE I DID FAR MORE THAN ***DABBLE.***

NO, I'M REFERRING TO ACTUAL SWORDS, SORCERY, DRAGONS AND DEMONS KIND.

I DIDN'T REALLY GET FAR WITH THAT, BUT YEAH... THAT WAS CERTAINLY A THING!

REASON WHY I'M MENTIONING THIS IS, WELL... I PREFER REMEMBERING THIS CONVERSATION AS AN EPIC FANTASY BATTLE

I MEAN... IT CERTAINLY BEATS THE PLAIN REALITY OF ME GETTING MY ASS HANDED TO ME BY ANNE OVER A CELLPHONE.

WHAT CAN I SAY? I'M A WRITER AND A FETISHIST, THEATRICALITY IS IN MY BLOOD!

JUST LIKE I THINK SEX LOOKS ***FANCIER*** IN SHINY LATEX, I ALSO CONSIDER A ***FIGHT*** TO BE FAR MORE IMPRESSIVE IN A SHINY SUIT OF ARMOR, SO, YEAH WITHOUT FURTHER A DO...

A ***TOTALLY LEGITIMATE*** REENACTMENT OF MY CONVERSATION!

HEY, ANNE!

OH.... SO YOU ***ARE*** ALIVE?

I WAS BEGINNING TO WONDER!

I WAS BUSY...

I NOTICED! TOO BUSY TO CALL? DROP A ***MESSAGE?***

WELL..

MYEAH...

YOU KNOW WHAT... I COULD EVEN GET OVER ALL THAT BUT LEAVING ALLY ***ALONE*** LIKE THAT...

I ***GET*** BEING PISSED OFF BUT THAT WAS JUST PLAIN ***BULLSHIT!***

OH COME ON NOW, ANNE!

COME ON, *WHAT?*

YOU AND I BOTH KNOW SHE WASN'T *ALONE* ON HALLOWEEN.

YEAH... SHE HAD *ME!*

IT WAS HER COLD TONE.... SO NONCHALANT SO MATTER-OF-FACTLY.. IT PISSED ME THE FUCK OFF...

OH, I *KNOW* SHE DID!

AND HEY, I BET YOU HAD A *GREAT* TIME! RIGHT?

PLAYING DOCTOR, I PRESUME!?

I THOUGHT I *HAD* THIS...

I WAS *WRONG!*

TZING

PLAYING DOCTOR?

OOOOH... *I SEE...*

YOU THINK THAT I TOOK HER HOME TO...

RIGHT! YEAH SURE, THAT WAS *EXACTLY* WHAT WE DID!

WE PLAYED DOCTOR! AND HOOLY CRAP, IT LASTED FOR A WHILE! ALMOST TWO HOURS!

FWING

OOMPF!

YUP... TWO HOURS OF SPECIAL TIME PAIN... BANDAGES! IMMOBILIZING BODY PARTS! IT WAS SIMPLY UNFORGETTABLE!

AND YOU WANT TO KNOW MY FAVORITE PART? WAITING IN LINE IN THAT AMBULANCE ROOM WHILE AN *ACTUAL FUCKING DOCTOR* WORKED ON FIXING ALLY'S INJURED ARM!

INJURED... WAIT, *WHAT?*

DID I FUCKING *STUTTER?* I TOOK HER TO THE GODDAMNED *HOSPITAL!!!*

WHICH APPARENTLY IS SOMETHING YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BECAUSE YOUR HIGHNESS IS WAY TOO FUCKING IMPORTANT AND SELF ABSORBED TO TALK TO ANYONE AND NOTICE ANYTHING BEYOND YOUR OWN *BUTTHURT!*

ANNE, *PLEASE!* WAIT! *WHAT HAPPENED?*

WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER YOURSELF?

AND WITH A SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHT, ANNE DISAPPEARED!

AND BY THAT I MEAN SHE *HUNG UP* ON MY DUMB ASS!

LISA?

UM, SORRY, MOM! I GOTTA GO, SOMETHING CAME UP! GIVE MY LOVE TO DAD, OKAY?

Y-YEAH BUT WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HOME!

YEAH, WELL... FUCK YOU *AND* YOUR FRIENDSHIP!

OF ALL THE THINGS SAID THAT NIGHT I THINK THIS ONE HURT ME THE *MOST.*

SEE, I BOTH *LOVED* AND *HATED* OUR FRIENDSHIP.

IT WAS THE SECOND BEST, THE GOOD ENOUGH

BUT LIKE IN THAT SONG... IT WAS THE ONE THING WE GOT.!

BDSM WAS THE THING THAT CONNECTED US, BUT OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS WHAT KEPT US TOGETHER...

YES, I WANTED MORE... BUT NEVER LESS.

I GUESS THAT IS WHY I HAVEN'T CALLED HER BACK.

IT WAS LIKE HEARING YOUR SOMETHING PRECIOUS DROP ON THE FLOOR AND YOU JUST DON'TWANT TO TURN AROUND AND SEE THE DAMAGE.

I COULD NO LONGER AVOID IT.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ALLY IN SIX DAYS...

SIX MISERABLE DAYS

DAYS FILLED WITH OVERTHINKING

MISS?

MISS!

HUH?,

THIS IT?

OH! *RIGHT!* YES, THANK YOU!

KEEP THE CHANGE!

THE HELL IS WITH THIS KEY?

YOU KNOW
I PASSED THROUGH
THAT DOOR MANY TIMES

WONDERFUL TIMES

PIZZA

WELCOMING TIMES!

GOOD TIMES...

BUT HEY... EVEN A COIN WILL ONLY LAND ON TAILS SO MANY TIMES IN A ROW.

O--OH

UM... HEY!

DON'T STARE AT HER ARM!

CRAP!

I...

I TRIED UNLOCKING THE DOOR BUT...

MY KEY WAS INSIDE

RIGHT... RIGHT...

YEAH... WELL, COME IN OR WHATEVER.

UH... HOW IS YOUR ARM?

'SOKAY!

;SLAM!

RIGHT...

ALLY'S ROOM!

ALLY'S ROOM!

ALLY?

ALLY'S ROOM!

WHAT?

ALLY'S ROOM!

UH...

ALLY'S ROOM!

...

LINE?

THANKS, BRAIN! *ALWAYS* THERE FOR ME!

I GUESS... I'LL BE IN MY ROOM IF YOU NEED ME.

ALLY'S ROOM!

YEAH...

I DIDN'T SEE ALLY ANYMORE THAT EVENING. EACH OF US SPENT THE NIGHT ALONE IN OUR SEPARARE ROOMS...

BUT THAT WAS FINE. I WAS *HOME*.

THE HARD PART WAS OVER.

EVERYTHING ELSE, WE COULD FIX...

SO, NATURALLY, WE BARELY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER THE NEXT DAY...

UM... YOU WANT...

I'LL BE IN MY ROOM, WORKING.

ALLY, I'M OFF TO WORK. YOU WANT ME TO BRING US SOMETHING FOR DINNER?

NOT FOR MY LACK OF TRYING.

I'M FINE. I'LL ORDER SOME TAKEOUT.

BY EVENING MY AWKWARDNESS TURNED INTO FULL SULKINESS.

I HESITATED CONFRONTING HER... I GUESS I FELT SORRY FOR HER, WHAT WITH THE ARM AND ALL.

BUT... AT NIGHT WHEN SHE WAS AWAY HER WORDS ONCE AGAIN RETURNED TO GNAW AT THE BACK OF MY MIND.

I ***HAD TO*** RESOLVE THIS!

I DEDIDED I WAS GOING TO CONFRONT HER THE NEXT MORNING!

TURNS OUT... ALLY HAD MADE THE EXACT SAME DECISION.

MY ALLY...

SHE LOVED ME...

SO SOO MUCH...

AND YET, MY EVERY SMILE, MY EVERY KIND LOOK..

HURT HER.

THING IS, AFTER A WEEK OF SOLITUDE AND OVERTHINKING, ALLY CAME TO A HEARTBREAKING REALIZATION.

SHE MAY HAVE LOVED ME...

...I JUST FUCK *ALL* OF MY FRIENDS!

WELL...AS FAR AS YOUR FRIENDS GO I ONLY KNOW OF ALAN...

SO FROM WHERE I'M STANDING, YOU ARE TWO FOR TWO!

BUT I DIDN'T SEE HER IN THAT WAY!

AND SO, THERE WE WERE, DEAR READER!

STUCK IN THIS REPETITIVE CYCLE

SAME IDEAS...

SAME EXCUSES....

WE WERE JUST FRIENDS...

YET I LOVED HER

WHY RISK THE GOOD ENOUGH?

BUT I LOVED HER...

MANY TIMES OVER I REITERATED WHAT BDSM WAS ALL ABOUT, USING IT LIKE A STRANGE MANTRA.

GLORIFYING THE TRUST WE SHARED SEXUALLY...

WHILE IRONICALLY LACKING THE SAME WHEN IT CAME TO MATTERS OF THE HEART.

INSTEAD OF EMOTIONAL HONESTY, WE KEPT REPEATING OUR PATTERN OF HINTS AND MISSES

OVER, AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I OFTEN CONSIDERED REMOVING SOME SEEMINGLY IRRELEVANT EVENTS... STREAMLINING IT ALL...JUST, YOU KNOW, BEING A WRITER.

TREATING OUR LIVES AS A ***STORY***...

BUT, TURNS OUT I COULDN'T DO THAT.

WHY?

BECAUSE REPETITION WAS ONE OF DEFINING TRAITS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP BACK THEN

SEE, THING IS, ***FRIENDZONE*** IS ALL ABOUT REPETITION, AND WE WERE UP TO OUR EYEBALLS IN IT

OH, NO, THIS WAS NOT THE INTERNET'S CYNICAL IDEA OF THE FRIENDZONE, OFTEN ATTRIBUTED TO SEXUALLY FRUSTRATED MANIPULATIVE PEOPLE TRYING TO SWEETTALK THEIR WAY INTO SOMEONE'S BEDROOM.

HELL, WE HAD ZERO PROBLEMS WITH THAT BIT.

NO, THE REAL FRIENDZONE IS NOT ABOUT SEX... IT'S ABOUT UNREQUITED LOVE. UNSPOKEN FEELINGS. SILENCE OUT OF FEAR!

BECAUSE YOU ARE AFRAID TO RISK THE FRIENDSHIP...

RISK THE THE ILLUSION OF TRUST...

RISK THE GOOD ENOUGH.

SO INSTEAD YOU ARE STUCK IN THIS FRUSTRATING CYCLE , IN IT YOU SEE THEIR SMILES, THEIR EVERY MOVEMENT, THEIR EVERY ACTION AND YOU ASK YOURSELF OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

WHAT DO THEY MEAN BY IT? IS THERE MORE TO THE SMILE, THE LOOK, TO THEIR CASUAL TOUCH

IT IS THE CONTINUOUS LOOP OF HOPE GAINED, AND HOPE CRUSHED

A SEEMINGLY MADDENING EFFORT OF SOLVING THE RIDDLES OF THEIR SIGNALS, WHILE WONDERING IF THERE EVEN ARE SIGNALS TO DECIPHER.

TO PUT IT IN THE SIMPLEST WAY, FRIENDZONE IS PLAYING THE "SHE LOVES ME, SHE LOVES ME NOT" GAME ON A FLOWER THAT HAS A SEEMINGLY INFINITE NUMBER OF PETALS

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO PLAY THAT GAME, EITHER YOU TAKE IT TO IT'S ULTIMATE CONCLUSION...

OR YOU QUIT, NOT KNOWING HOW MANY PETALS THERE WERE LEFT.

SHE *LOVES* ME...

SHE LOVES ME *NOT*...

SHE....

THAT DAY ALLY REALIZED, SHE WAS *DONE* WITH THE FLOWER.

LISA...

HUH?

ALLY THOUGHT OF TWO THINGS THAT MORNING

1- LIKE A BAND-AID, DO IT ***FAST!***

I.... DON'T THINK THIS IS GONNA WORK.

SORRY?

I THINK... I THINK YOU SHOULD MOVE OUT...

AND 2- ***DON'T TEAR UP!***

I WAS THERE FOR ONE DAY...

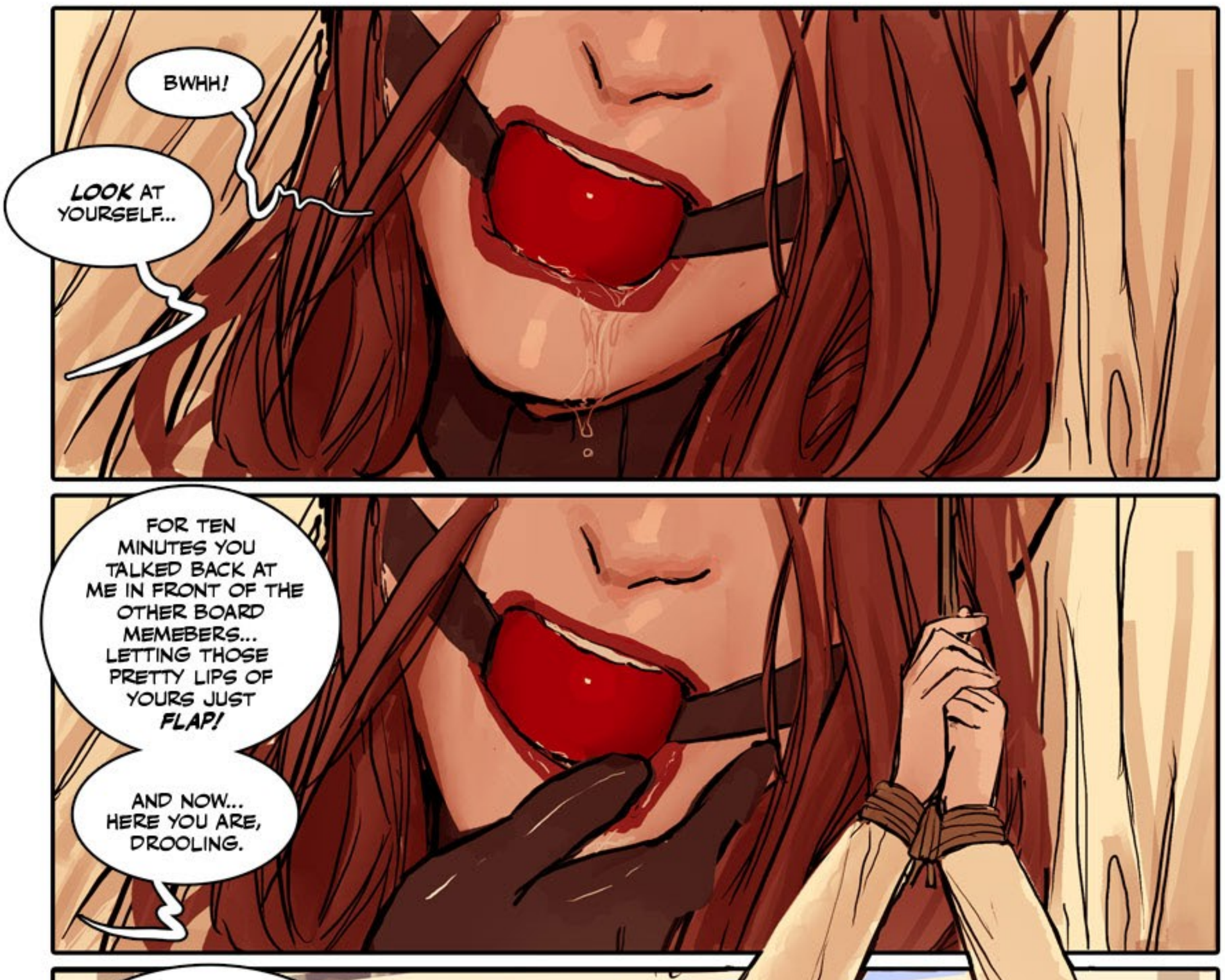
YOU COULDN'T JUST ***LEAVE?***

I ASKED YOU TO LEAVE NICELY, POLITELY... BUT NO!

THEN AGAIN... I ALWAYS ***LIKED*** THAT ABOUT YOU.

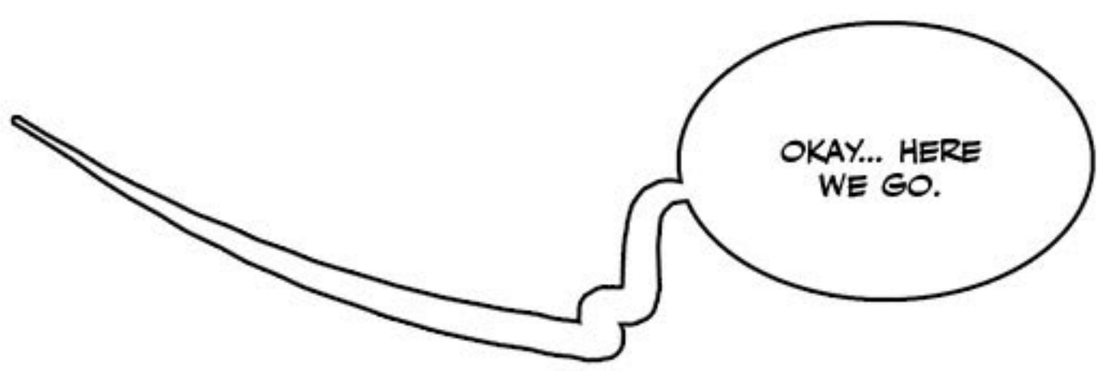
YOUR DEFIANCE ***INFURIATED*** ME AS MUCH AS IT TURNED ME ON!

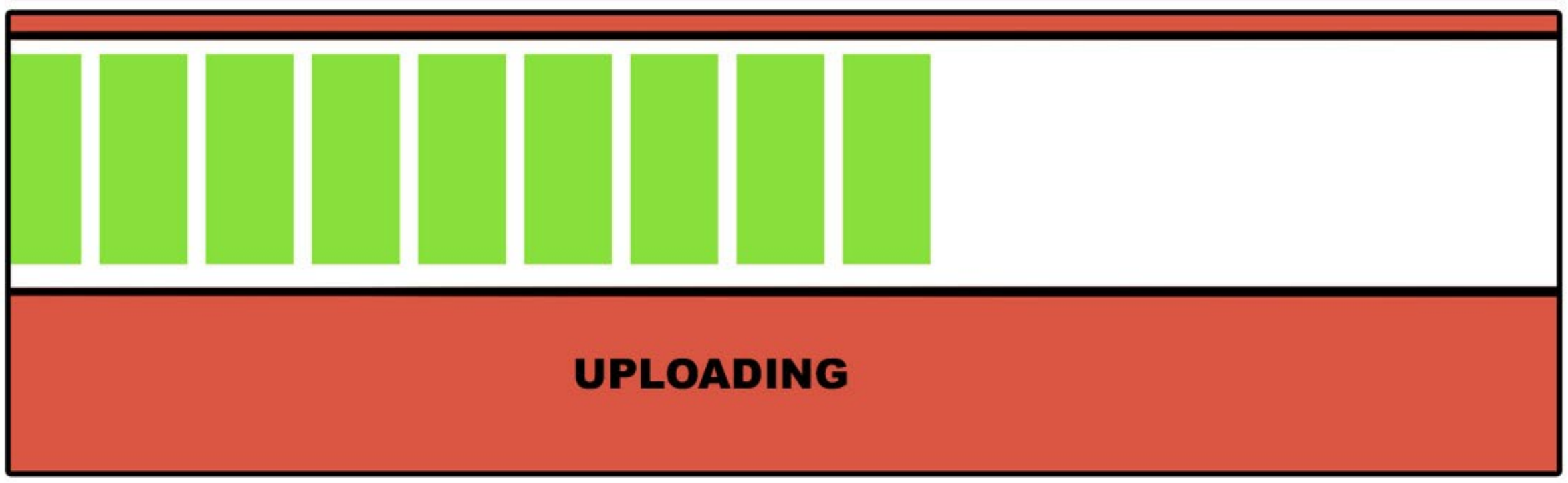
IT MADE IT EASY FOR ME TO GET IN THE RIGHT MINDSET.

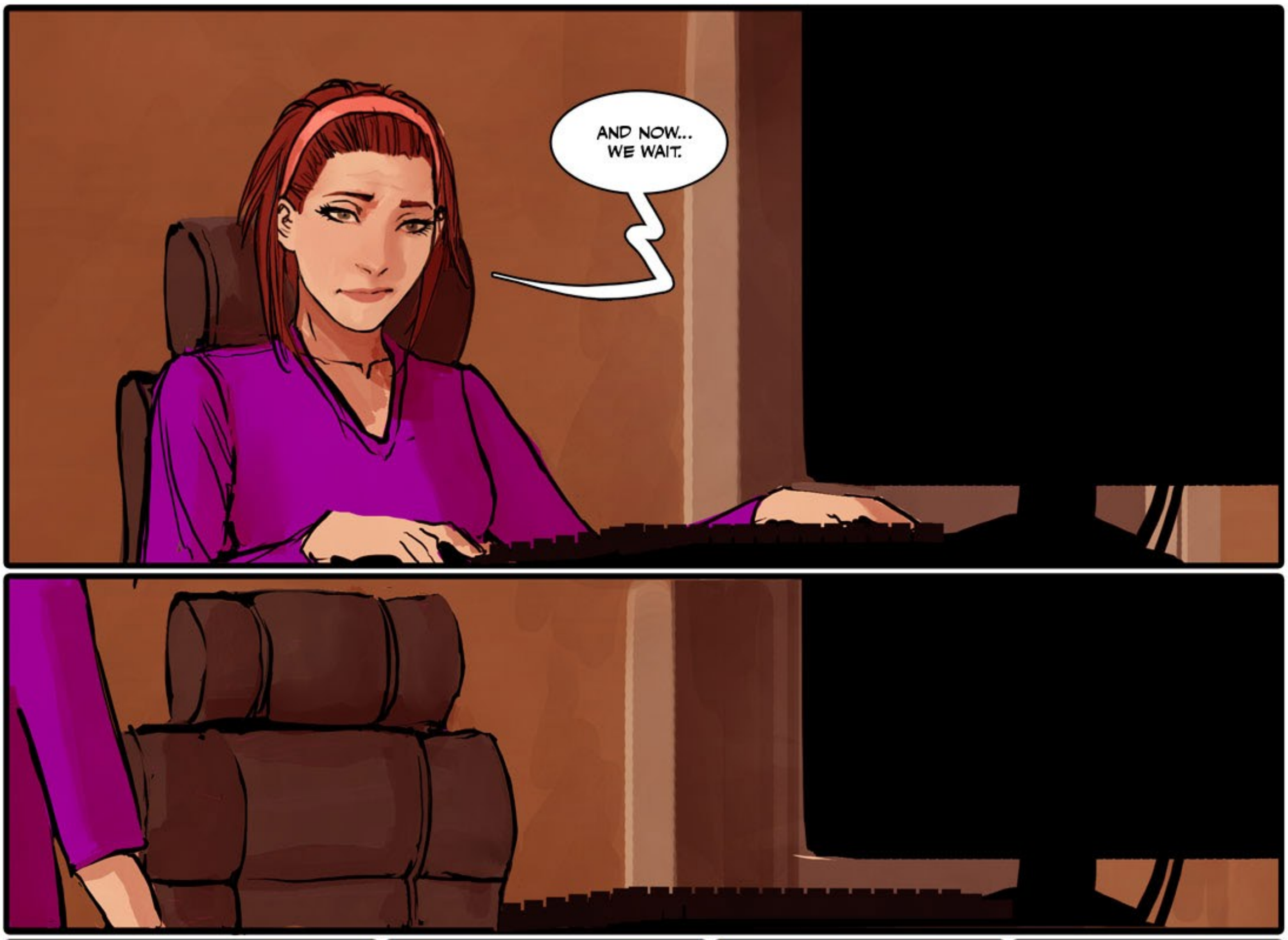

BWHH!
LOOK AT YOURSELF...
FOR TEN MINUTES YOU TALKED BACK AT ME IN FRONT OF THE OTHER BOARD MEMEBERS... LETTING THOSE PRETTY LIPS OF YOURS JUST FLAP!
AND NOW... HERE YOU ARE, DROOLING.
EVERY SECOND OF YOUR LITTLE SPEECH I THOUGHT TO MYSELF I COULD MAKE YOU KNEEL BEFORE ME... WORSHIP ME.
EVERY WORD MADE ME WANT TO GAG YOU....
TO JUST TIE YOU DOWN TO THAT BOARDROOM TABLE AND HUMILIATE YOU!
WELL PLAYED, MAYA. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME ALL THE FUEL I'LL NEED FOR THIS WEEKEND

Maya closed her eyes, drinking in the feeling of Jade's latex clad hands on her skin, cool, smooth, and sliding slowly downwards. She felt that familiar pleasant twinge deep inside. she couldn't speak, she couldn't leave,she could do nothing but submit!

Grinning behind her gag she thought... Let's do this!






AND NOW...
WE WAIT.

First!

...to eat shit!

Phew, so glad to see you back. been kinda worried you quit on us. anyhoo, lovin the new story! :)

AWW!

Awesome story! That being said, when are we getting more Lisbeth and Allison stories? Gimmegimmegimme!!!

Yeah, this!

Really loved the dynamics of this one. Situations were hot but still low tier compared to your other stuff. Then again Allison, Lisbeth and Sarah have been around much longer, so that makes sense. looking forward to more Jade and Maya, and hey.... MORE LISBETH! COME OOON!!!!!

These girls need some good dick!

Well, i guess you're out of the picture then!

So when are we getting more Lisbeth and Allison stories?

ARGH

There is only one mistress, and her name is Allison!
Tho, Jade is nice! :P

Okay, you're back! so, when is Lisbeth coming back?

SO... TWELVE DAYS AFTER MOVING OUT FROM ALLY'S PLACE HOW WAS I COPING?

MMMMMMNNNNGGGGGHHHH!!!

10/10 DOING JUST FUCKING FINE!

BUT YEAH... MOVING OUT... I GUESS I SHOULD ADRESS THAT.

THING IS...

THERE WASN'T MUCH TO IT...

NOT MUCH THAT I REMEMBER, THAT IS.

SEE... AFTER SHE SAID: "*YOU SHOULD MOVE OUT*", EVERYTHING GOT KIND OF EMPTY, AND DISTORTED.

GUESS THAT'S THE SIDE EFFECT OF HAVING YOUR HEART TORN OUT. YOU ARE LEFT WITH AN ***ECHOEY*** CAVITY THAT ENDS UP JUST DISTORTING EVERYTHING YOU HEAR.

SO MY MEMORIES OF THAT CONVERSATION ARE SOMEWHAT SKETCHY... FRAGMENTED.

ALL I CAN TELL YOU WITH ANY CERTAINTY IS, WE DIDN'T EVEN ARGUE. THERE WAS NO POINT.

I MEAN, EVEN THOUGH I SPACED OUT ON THE REST OF IT, HER MESSAGE WAS LOUD AND CLEAR.

THE WAY I SAW IT WAS.... ***MOVE OUT***, BECAUSE FUCK YOU AND YOUR FRIENDSHIP!

SO I DID JUST THAT.

I MOVED BACK INTO MY OLD PLACE. IT WAS AVAILABLE.I GUESS MS DERRINGER, THE LAND LADY DIDN'T FIND ANY TAKERS. WHAT WITH THE PRICE AND... HER CHARM.

KEEP IN MIND, I HAVE...

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR LATE RENT...I KNOW. I *LIVED* HERE.

MHM!

HOME SWEET...

Y'KNOW WHAT? I'LL SPARE YOU MY TEARS...

I SPENT THOSE DAYS WALKING AROUND WITH A HOLLOW PAIN IN BOTH MY HEART, AND STOMACH.

I GUESS HEARTACHE SOUNDS MORE ROMANTIC THAN STOMACHACHE BUT I SWEAR THEY BOTH FELT THE SAME.

I MISSED HER. IT HURT WHEN I BROKE UP WITH DAVID, BUT WITH ALLY... OH GOD... IT WAS TEN TIMES WORSE.

SUFFICE TO SAY, MY NOVEMBER WAS OFF TO A SHITTY START.

I WAS A ***ZOMBIE*** AT WORK.

COFFEE?

NO THANK YOU. UM... YOU SEEM LIKE ***YOU*** COULD USE SOME.

MY ATTEMPTS AT DISTRACTING MYSELF WITH BOOKS FAILED MISERABLY.

I COULD BARELY FORCE MYSELF TO EVEN WRITE.

THOSE WERE BLEAK JOYLESS DAYS...

I NEEDED SOMETHING WONDERFUL TO SNAP ME OUT OF THE DULL GLOOM.

INSTEAD OF SOMETHING WONDERFUL REALITY CAME CRASHING IN!

BY REALITY, I MEAN BILLS.

LOTS OF BILLS.

TURNS OUT, BILLS GIVE *ZERO* FUCKS ABOUT BROKEN HEARTS.

AND THIS HARSH REALITY GUTPUINCH BRINGS THIS PROLONGED SEGUAE TO IT'S POINT... WAITRESSING IN A SMALL DINER DIDN'T REALLY COVER MY LIFE EXPENSES ON IT'S OWN...

SO, REMEMBER THOSE PORNY *STORIES* OF MINE?

THIS IS WHERE THEY COME TO SAVE THE DAY... IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

SO... HOW DOES ONE BECOME AN INTERNET PORN STORY WRITER?

NO IDEA! I CAN ONLY TELL YOU HOW *I* BECAME ONE.

I WAS 17 WHEN WE GOT OUR FIRST PC

JUST... BEAR WITH ME, I'M *GOING* SOMEWHERE WITH THIS.

MY BROTHERS AND I NEEDED A COMPUTER... WELL, MORE SPECIFICALLY WE NEEDED INTERNET FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES

BUT, AS THAT IS OFTEN THE CASE, WE MOSTLY USED IT FOR SOCIAL NETWORKING AND JUST SEARCHING FOR RANDOM CRAP ON THE INTERNET...

PERSONALLY, I GOT BORED OF IT ALL FAST. I RETURNED TO MY BOOKS. AND ONLY USED THE COMPUTER SPORADICALLY AT BEST.

IN FACT I PICKED UP AN ODD HABIT OF JUST LOOKING AT ALL THE SHIT MY BROTHERS STOCKPILED ON IT'S ETERNALY SHRINKING STORAGE SPACE... YOU MAY CALL IT INTERNET BY *PROXY.*

MY YOUNGER BROTHER JIMMY GATHERED A MASSIVE COLLECTION OF JOKES AND FUNNY PICTURES... OF ALL KINDS. HE ALSO KEPT A FEW PASSWORD LOCKED FOLDERS. OF THE THREE OF US KIDDO WAS THE MOST COMPUTER SAVVY.

AND MIKE...

HEH! MIKE'S HOMEWORK FOLDER?

MIKE WAS 19, AND SINGLE BACK THEN...

AAND HE HAD INTERNET ACCESS...

SO YEAH, *PORN... LOTSA* PORN!

HONESTLY, IN A WEIRD WAY I ENVIED HIM A LITTLE...

AT LEAST HIS TASTES WERE SIMPLE. VANILLA STUFF, SOME LINGERIE THAT'S ABOUT IT.

ME... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO PUT MINE INTO WORDS.

I WAS THE WEIRD GIRL WHO WOULD AT TIMES TIE HER OWN HANDS WITH A HAIRBAND BEFORE MASTURBATING.

BACK THEN I WAS UNAWARE OF THE TERM ***BDSM.*** ONLY RELATED WORD I KNEW WAS ***"DOMINATRIX"*** AND TO ME IT MEANT A WOMAN WHO ***WHIPS*** PEOPLE...

NOT REALLY SOMETHING I FELT LIKE SEARCHING ONLINE....

SO YEAH, I TURNED TO BOOKS

BACK IN THOSE DAYS, I MOSTLY READ FANTASY, ADVENTURE, AND SUPERNATURAL THEMED BOOKS. HOWEVER, ON A WHIM ONE DAY I TURNED TO THE ROMANCE SECTION...

AND NOT THE ***GOOD*** ROMANCE...

OKAY SO I NOTICED A COVER WHERE THE HEROINE WAS BOUND... IT ***PIQUED*** MY INTERENST

I STARTED DEVOURING THESE BOOKS. THERE WAS SEX IN THEM. MOST OF IT VANILLA... BUT IN THOSE RARE OCCASIONS, WHEN THINGS GOT A LITTLE KINKY... WELL, LET'S SAY I WAS... ***RESPONSIVE.***

BUT AGAIN.. IT WAS ALL SO SPORADIC. SO, RANDOM AND HARD TO FIND. EVEN THE COVERS WERE ALL TOO OFTEN DECEPTIVE.

I NEEDED MORE... I NEEDED BETTER.

I NEEDED... ***THE INTERNET!***

THIS TIME I HAD AN ***EXACT*** IDEA WHAT I WAS AFTER!

SIGH... FALSE ADVERTISING.

CAPTAIN'S BRIDE

THIS ONE INTERNET SEARCH ENDED UP BEING ONE OF THE MOST ***DEFINING*** MOMENTS OF MY SECRETIVE SEXUAL AND CREATIVE LIFE.

bondage stories

18+ enter

18- leave

OH WELL...I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT TWO MONTHS TILL MY 18TH BIRTHDAY!

YYYUP!

GONNA WAIT!

AND I ***TOTALLY*** WAITED!

THAT YEAR I WAS INTRODUCED TO A DELIGHTFULLY TWISTED WORLD OF SEXUAL FANTASIES AS I ENTERED A SITE WHERE PEOPLE POSTED THEIR OWN STORIES.

OH THE QUALITY VARIED DRASTICALLY, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME. I HAD ENTIRE BOOK TOMES WORTH OF SMUT TO DEVOUR

AND THE BRILLIANT PART OF IT WAS, UNLIKE MIKE'S PORN, MINE REQUIRED ***INVESTMENT.*** YOU HAD TO TAKE THE TIME TO READ IT!

REALLY? STILL READING? FOR CRISSAKE, DON'T YOU GET ENOUGH OF THAT FROM ALL THOSE ROMANCE BOOKS?

I ***LIKE...*** ROMANCE!

WHICH OF COURSE NEITHER OF MY BROTHERS DID.

MEH!

OVER TIME I FOUND THE SEVERAL WRITERS WHOSE CREATIONS I FOLLOWED RELIGIOUSLY AND I REALIZED THAT I WAS FAR FROM ALONE. THESE PEOPLE WERE ***STARS***. REVERED AMONG THE COMMUNITY. DISCUSSED ABOUT IN LENGTHY FORUM THREADS.

ALSO... LISA, AGE 18. NEVER HAD SEX, KNOWS WHAT A BALLGAG, BUTTPLUG, ARMBINDER, STRAP ON DILDO, AND A POSTURE COLLAR ARE.

THAT WAS ROUGHLY WHEN I REALIZED, I WANTED THAT.

THE... WRITING FAME THING... I MEAN I KINDA WANTED THE OTHER STUFF AS WELL, BUT YEAH, I WANTED TO BE BIG ON THOSE SITES.

I WILL FOREVER REMEMBER THE ***ANXIETY*** OF SUBMITTING MY FIRST STORY...

OVERALL SCORE, 3,4 OUT OF FIVE STARS.

I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY UNSURE WHETHER TO FEEL ELATED OR BUMMED OUT...

BUT I KNEW ONE THING. I HAD A ***LONG*** ROAD AHEAD OF ME.

I ***NEVER*** GAVE UP. MY STORIES GOT ***BETTER!*** IN STRUCTURE, CHARACTER WRITING AS WELL AS THE ABILITY TO GET MY AUDIENCE HOT AND BOTHERED. SLOWLY BUT SURELY, MY RATINGS GOT HIGHER. A FEW YEARS PASSED AND I WAS ONE OF THE ***BIG*** ONES. A ***STAR*** IN THE COMMUNITY. A ***SOMEBODY!***

OKAY IT WAS IN AN ***OBSCURE*** PART OF THE INTERNET THAT MEANT NOTHING TO NOBODY, BUT IT MEANT SOMETHING TO ***ME!***

AND OVER TIME WITH INTERNET'S EVOLUTION, OPPORTUNITIES AROSE. I SET UP A SORT OF A DIGITAL TIP JAR FOR PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO SUPPORT MY STORIES.

AND PEOPLE DID JUST THAT. OH IT WAS NOTHING I COULD LIVE BY, BUT IT SURE AS HELL PATCHED THE BUDGET HOLES IN MY THINLY STRETCHED WAITRESS SALARY.

YOU MIGHT SAY, I WAS ***MODERATELY*** MAKIN' IT RAIN!

AND ULTIMATELY, AND MOST UNEXPECTEDLY... THESE STORIES BROUGHT ***ALLY*** INTO MY LIFE.

First time reader and all i can say is: binge time! :P

I AM NOT OVERLY PRONE TO ROMANTICIZING MY OWN LIFE'S EXPERIENCES, BUT ***NOBODY*** WILL EVER TAKE THIS REALIZATION FROM ME! FLOWERS AND ALL!

MY STORIES WERE UNADRESSED LETTERS TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR MEANING...

AND THEY FOUND ***HER***... AND SHE FOUND ***THEM***...

YET ,IT WAS FOR FAR LESS ROMANTIC REASONS THAT I STARTED WRITING THAT NOVEMBER.

AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, MY WAITRESS SALLARY WAS NOT ENOUGH. IF I PLANNED ON, YOU KNOW, EATING, I HAD TO ONCE AGAIN MODERATLY MAKE IT RAIN.

I HAD TO WRITE.

AND SO I DID... THANKFULLY I HAD A FAIR SHARE OF UNFINISHED STORIES JUST WAITING TO BE DONE.

SO I PICKED UP THE FIRST ONE ONTHE LIST. A SIMPLE TALE OF TWO COWORKERS. ONE DISCOVERS THAT THE OTHER IS A DOMINATRIX.

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER ***SIMPLE***, BUT EFFECTIVE.

I ACTUALLY FELT GOOD ABOUT ITS FIRST PART.

IT WAS FUN AND HOT.

I THOUGHT, MY AUDIENCE WILL LOVE IT...

THEY LIKED IT... BUT THEY WERE HOPING FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

SEE, LISBETH AND ALLISON STORIES WERE BY FAR MY GREATEST HITS. THEY MORE THAN TRIPLED MY READERSHIP IN THE SPAN OF A FEW MONTHS...

PEOPLE LIKED THEM

THEY GOT ***HOOKED*** ON THEM...

AND THEY WANTED ***MORE***.

PROBLEM WAS... IT WAS NO LONGER ***MY*** STORY TO WRITE.

AND SO... I DECIDED TO FACE THIS PROBLEM HEAD ON...

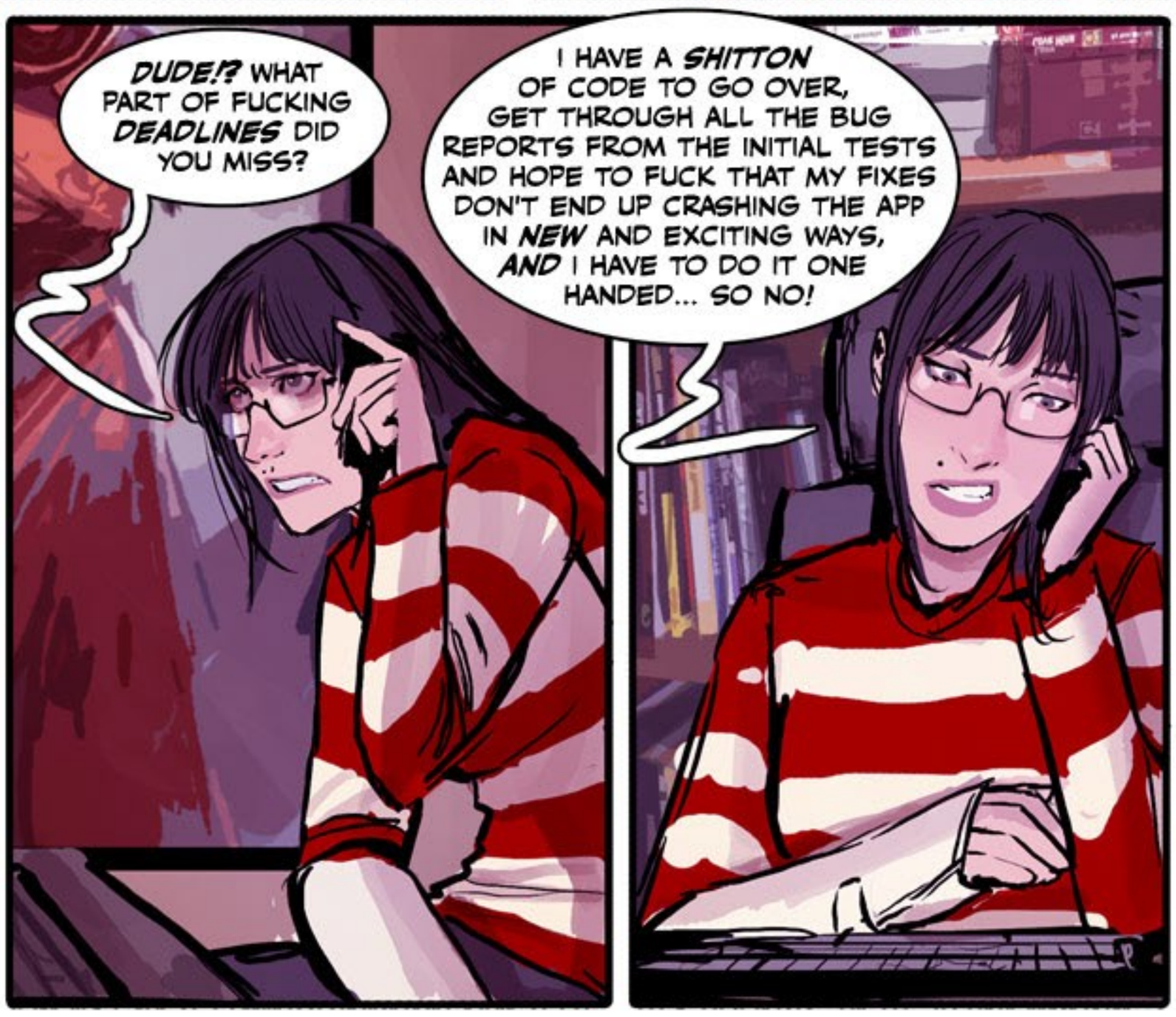
OH, COME ON! JUST A CUP OF COFFEE FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

I SAID NO. I HAVE... DEADLINES.

ALLY YOU HAVEN'T LEFT THE DAMN HOUSE FOR OVER A WEEK NOW.

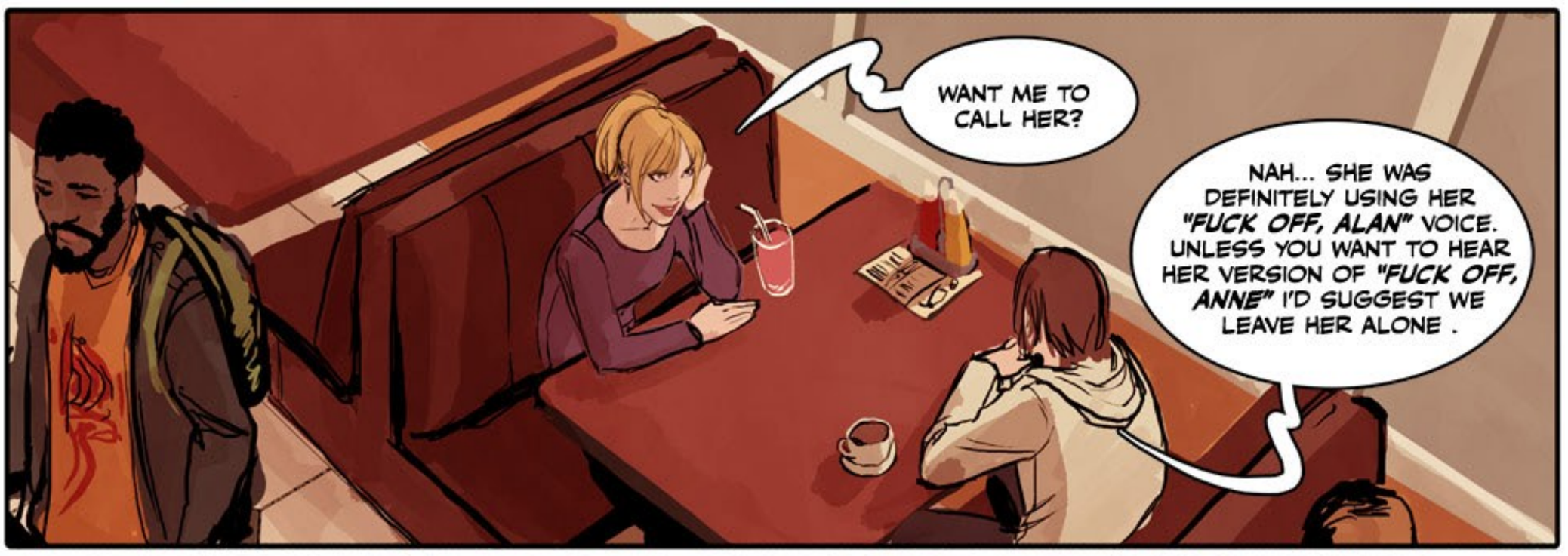
I HAVE LOTS OF DEADLINES AND THE FACT THAT LIGAMENTS TAKE AGES TO HEAL ISN'T DOING MUCH FOR MY PROGRESS.

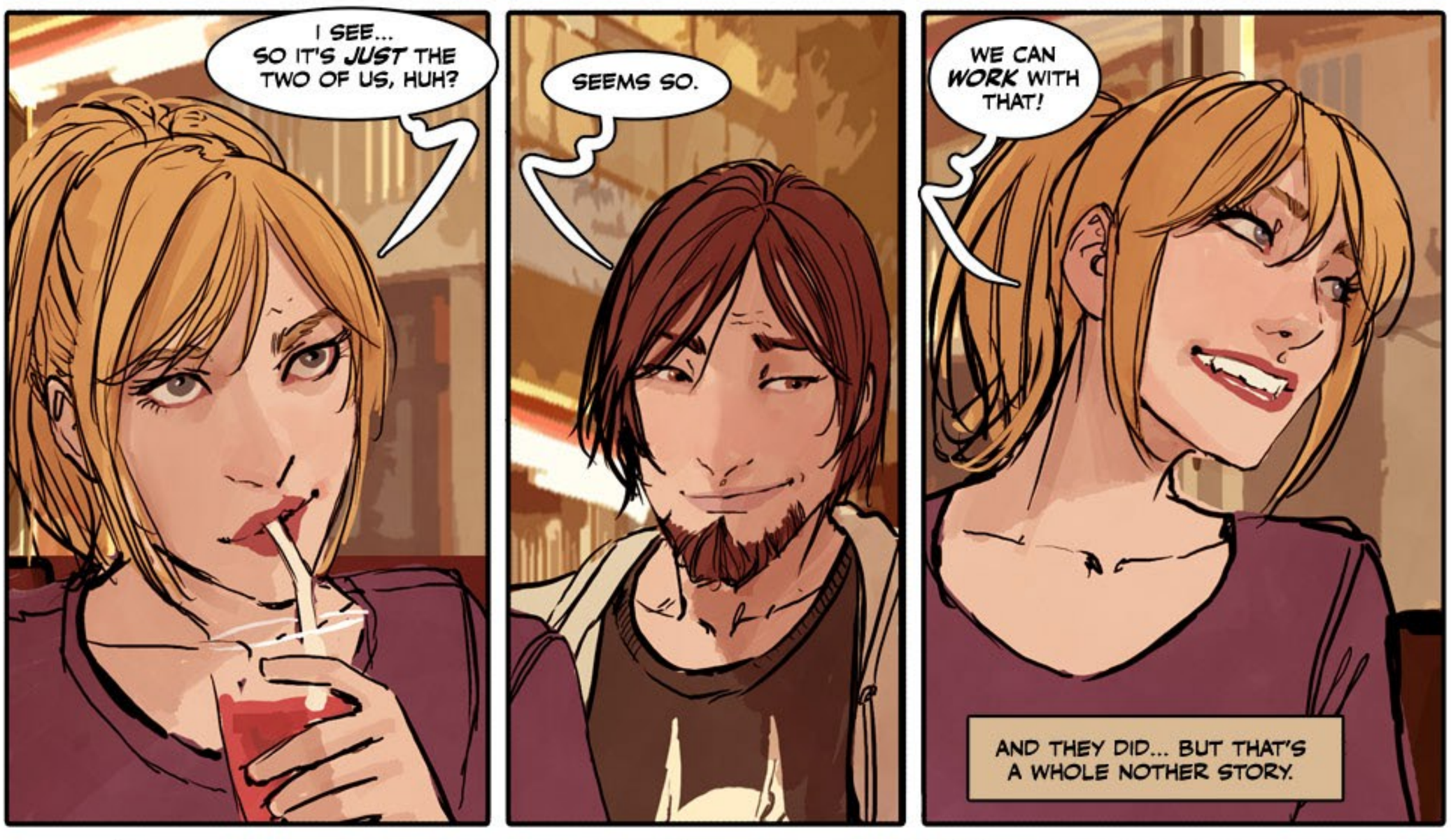
WANT US TO COME OVER?

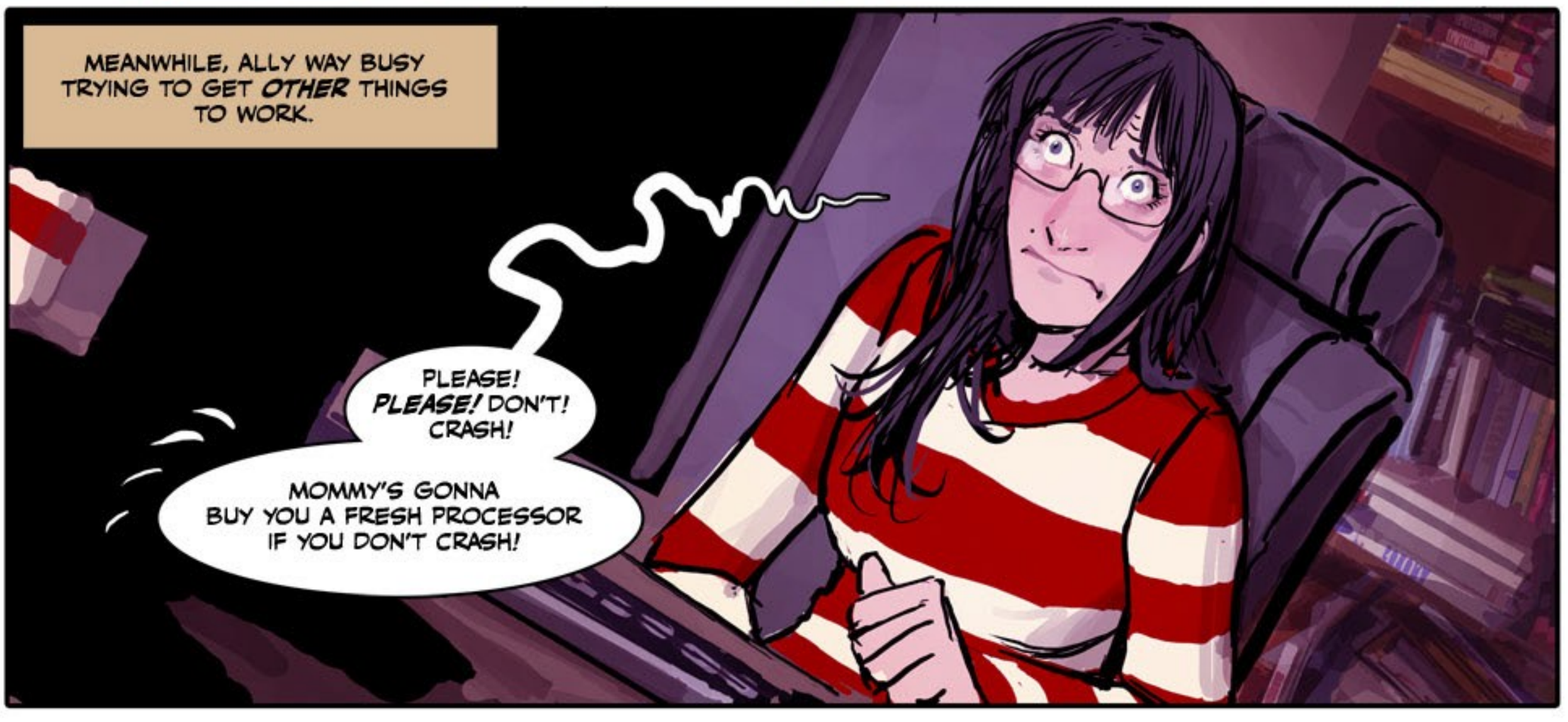

DUDE!? WHAT PART OF FUCKING DEADLINES DID YOU MISS?
I HAVE A SHITTON OF CODE TO GO OVER, GET THROUGH ALL THE BUG REPORTS FROM THE INITIAL TESTS AND HOPE TO FUCK THAT MY FIXES DON'T END UP CRASHING THE APP IN NEW AND EXCITING WAYS, AND I HAVE TO DO IT ONE HANDED... SO NO!

YOU TWO HAVE FUN!

SHE'S NOT COMING?
NO.


WANT ME TO CALL HER?
NAH... SHE WAS DEFINITELY USING HER "FUCK OFF, ALAN" VOICE. UNLESS YOU WANT TO HEAR HER VERSION OF "FUCK OFF, ANNE" I'D SUGGEST WE LEAVE HER ALONE .


I SEE... SO IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, HUH?
SEEMS SO.
WE CAN WORK WITH THAT!
AND THEY DID... BUT THAT'S A WHOLE NOTHER STORY.


MEANWHILE, ALLY WAY BUSY TRYING TO GET OTHER THINGS TO WORK.
PLEASE! PLEASE! DON'T! CRASH!
MOMMY'S GONNA BUY YOU A FRESH PROCESSOR IF YOU DON'T CRASH!

...

...

WELCOME TO O-WORLD!

OH, THANK THE DIGITAL GODS! ONE DOWN!

YUP...

ALLY HAD DEADLINES.

DEADLINES WERE GOOD. DEADLINES KEPT HER BUSY. DISTRACTED. KEPT HER FROM SOBBING INTO A PILLOW. (*HER* WORDS, NOT MINE)

WE HAD NO CONTACTS FOR TWO WEEKS SINCE I MOVED OUT, AND THAT DAY, AGAINST HER BETTER JUDGEMENT... SHE VISITED MY WEBSITE.

I'LL JUST QUOTE HER:

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR... I FELT EMPTY. I GUESS. NOT HEARING FROM YOU MADE IT ALL SEEM SURREAL LIKE YOU WERE NEVER THERE, A ***DREAM***, A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION.

I WENT TO YOUR SITE THAT DAY TO... I GUESS, DOUBLECHECK.

JADE'S SECRET...ARY

I THOUGHT... MAYBE YOU WROTE ***SOMETHING***, A NEW STORY... A MESSAGE... ***ANYTHING.***

I *DID* FIND A NEW STORY...

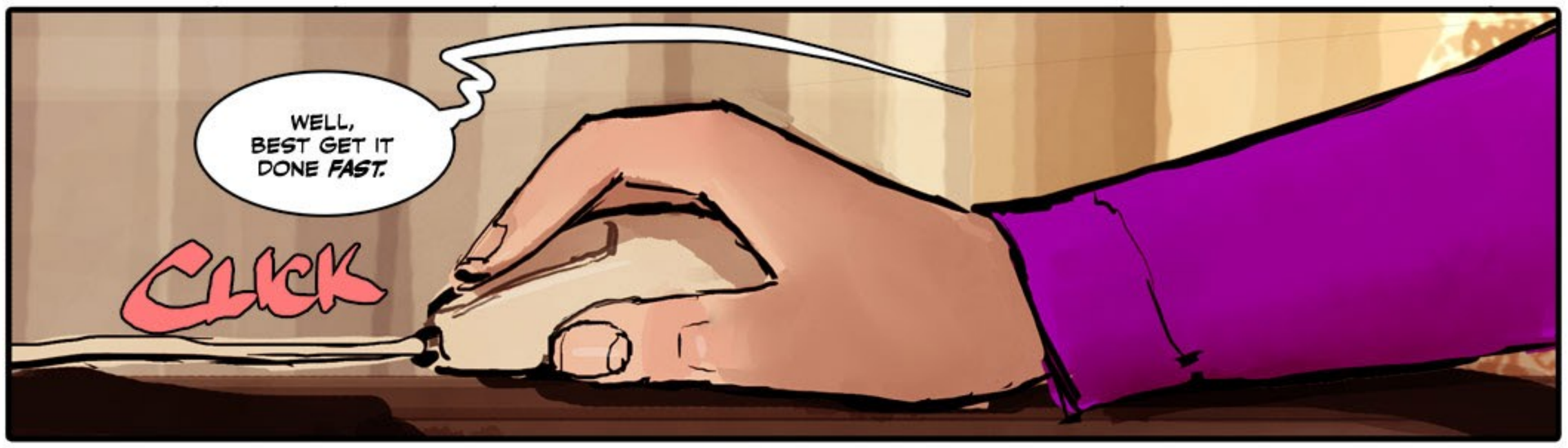
IT *WASN'T* ABOUT US...

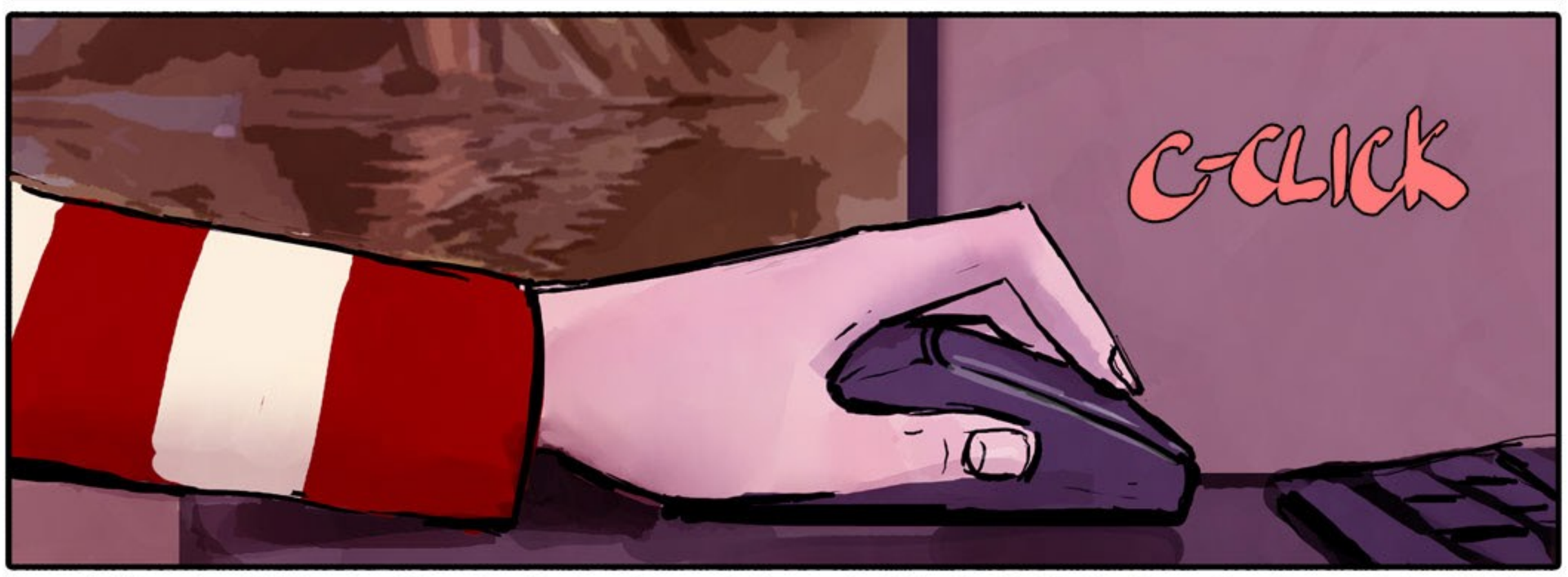
AND I ENDED UP FEELING EVEN *EMPTIER.*

SO, YEAH... THAT WAS ALLY!

AS FOR ME? WELL... MISERY LOVES COMPANY.

I MEANT WHAT I SAID, LISBETH AND ALLISON'S TALE WAS NO LONGER *MY* STORY TO WRITE. IT WAS SOMETHING I COULD NO LONGER DELAY ADRESSING.





Of Allison and Lisbeth

Sometimes , good things come to a bad end, dear reader. This is one such good thing.
The story of Allison and Lisbeth was by far the most

Of Allison and Lisbeth

Sometimes , good things come to a bad end, dear reader. This is one such good thing.
The story of Allison and Lisbeth was by far the most personal bit of writing, it was a story that started off as a fun bit of writing. A tongue in eheek nod to a friend and a reader. As our connection grew deeper, so did the importance of this story.

Many of you commented how the tales of Allison and Lisbeth went beyond being just simple porn. You found honesty and humanity in these characters. Reason for that was simple. I cared deeply about her. These stories were more than just a bit of raunchy internet spank material. They were my letters to her.

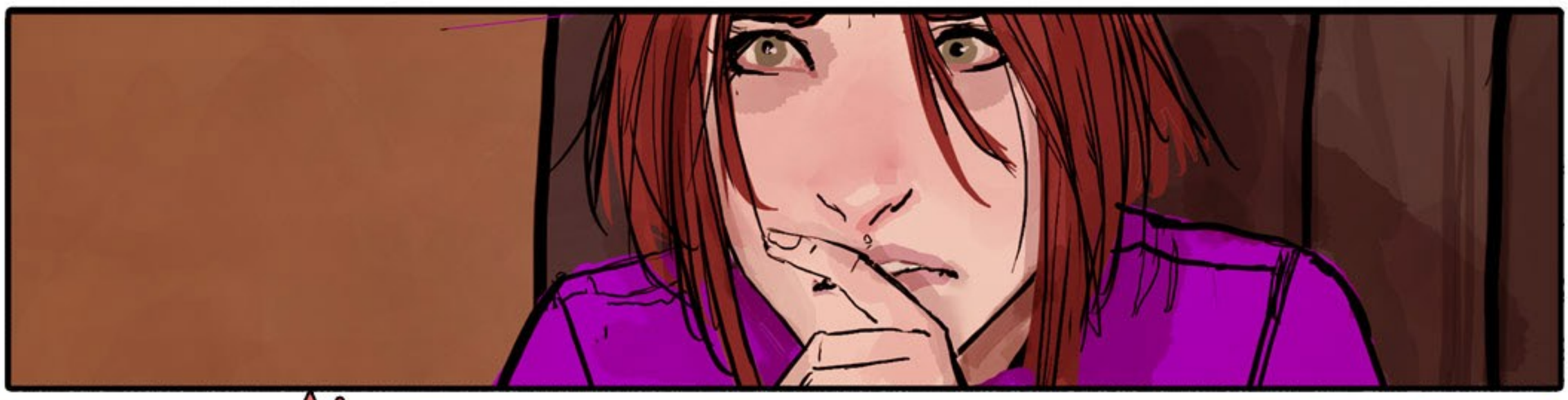
Like i said. Sometimes good things come to a bad end. It hurts, losing a friend, abandoning a story.

However, it is not my story to tell. Not anymore. Allison was based on her. on my friend. and i feel it would be overstepping many boundaries if i carried on writing as if nothing happenned. For this reason i decided i had to come clean about this situation.

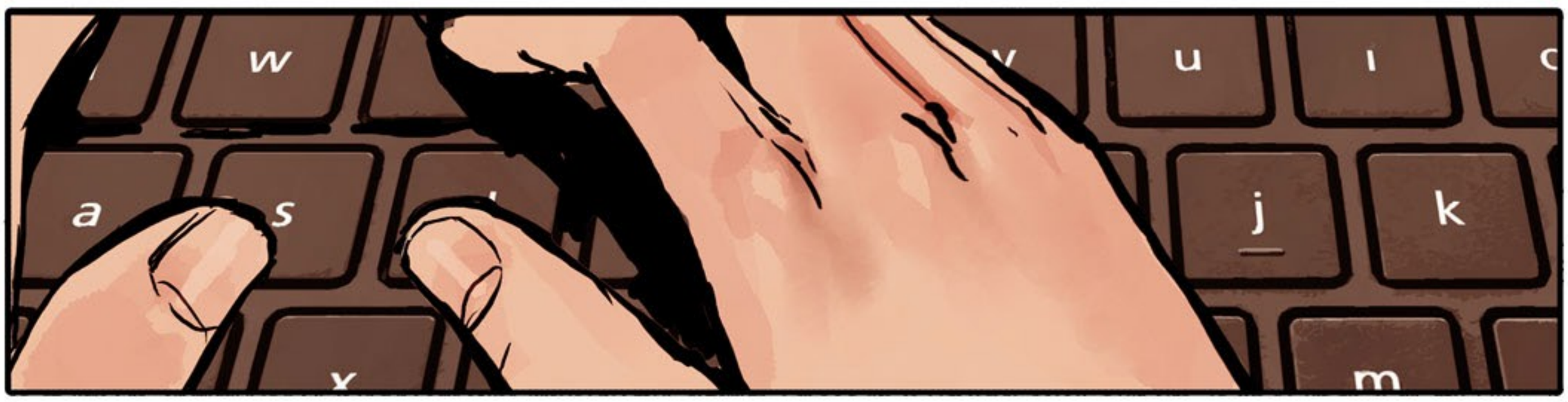
I sincerely pologize, to all of you .

Lisa.

BUH-BLIP
UGH...
BUH-BLIP
NOTE TO SELF! TURN OFF PRIVATE MESSAGE SOUND NOTIFICATIONS!
BUH-BLIP
From Vernon: Sorry about your announcement
From Allycat: Our story
From Slim-on: Idea!
From Allycat: Our story



I'm okay with you writing stories about us. I mean, the new story was cool, so if that's what you want to write, go ahead. But you don't have to stop Allison and Lisbeth for my sake.



Are you sure?

Yes!

NOVEMBER 20TH
I WAS SNAPPED OUT OF MY LETHARGY.

THAT DAY I REALIZED SHE WAS *STILL* THERE.

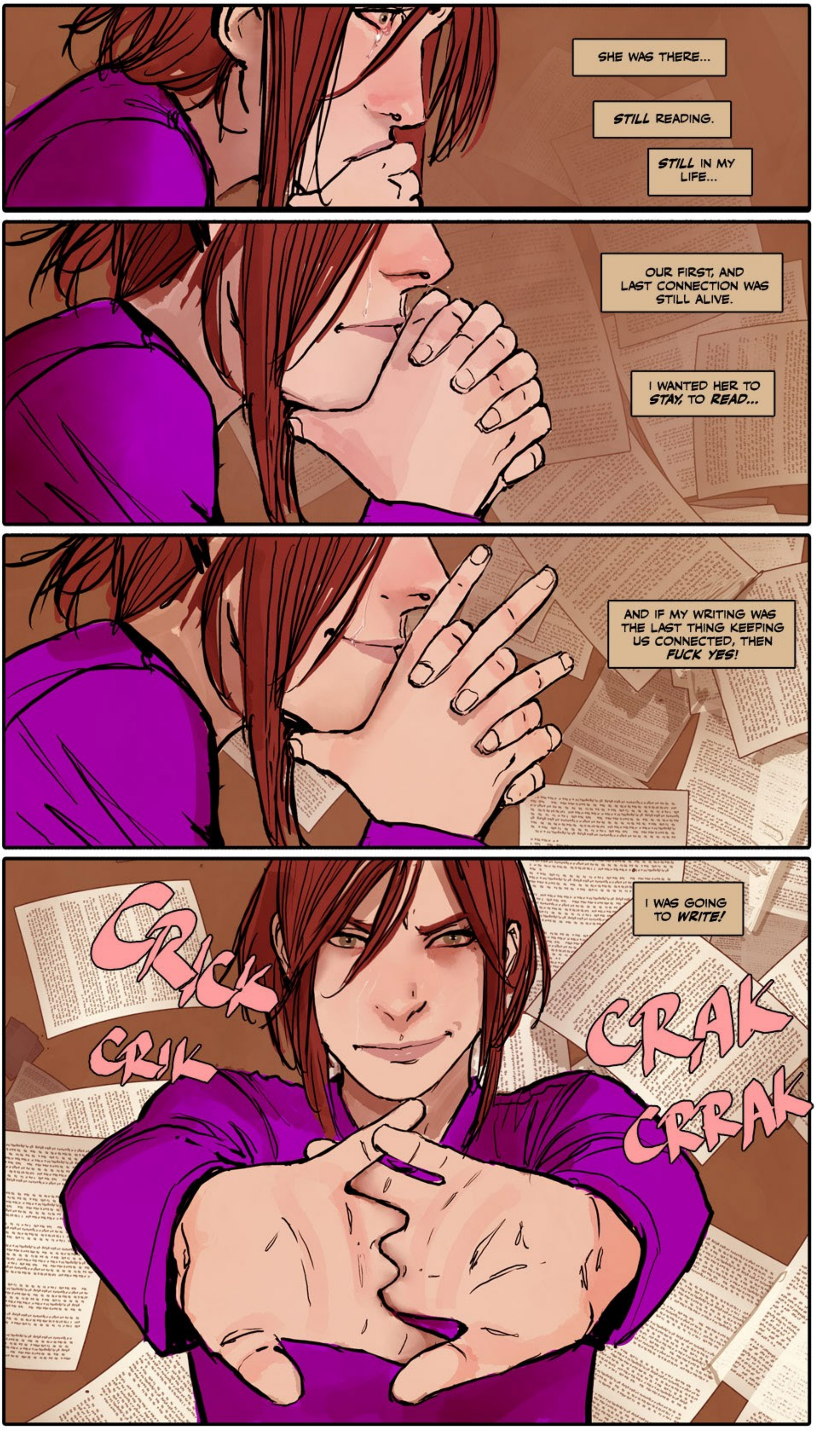
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT SCREEN

I SAT THERE FOR HOURS JUST STARING AT IT... TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS TURN OF EVENTS.

MY READERS' NOTES KEPT STOCKPILING.

AT ANY OTHER TIME I'D BE READING THEM, *REPLYING* TO THEM...

BUT THAT DAY, ALL MY THOUGHTS WERE FOCUSED ON *ONE* READER.


SHE WAS THERE...
STILL READING.
STILL IN MY LIFE...
OUR FIRST, AND LAST CONNECTION WAS STILL ALIVE.
I WANTED HER TO STAY, TO READ...
AND IF MY WRITING WAS THE LAST THING KEEPING US CONNECTED, THEN FUCK YES!
I WAS GOING TO WRITE!
CRICK
CRIK
CRAK
CRRAK

IT WAS THE MOST AMAZING ADVENTURE OF MY LIFE...

AND IT WAS JUST THAT. AN ***ADVENTURE***. IT STARTED WHEN I BEGAN RESEARCHING BDSM CULTURE FOR MY NOVEL I WAS ALWAYS INTERESTED, BUT HAD ZERO EXPERIENCE IN THESE THINGS...

Bondage

OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKS COULD ONLY TAKE ME SO FAR. THANKFULLY AN ***ACQUAINTANCE*** WAS AN ACTIVE PRACTITIONER. WHEN SHE HEARD I WAS PLANNING ON WRITING ABOUT IT, SHE DRAGGED MY ASS TO HER FAVORITE BDSM CLUB. AND THIS WAS WHERE MY LONG TIME FASCINATION WAS ABOUT TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

COME ON, I ***PROMISE*** IT'S NOT SCARY!

I'M NOT... SCARED.

I MET ALLISON THERE. DURING A SORT OF A PARTY... LUNCH THING.

SHE HAD THE MOST ***CONTAGIOUS*** LAUGHTER..

AND THE WARMEST YET DELIGHTFULLY WRY SMILE...

I FOUND MY SOURCE OF INFORMATION... SHE COULD TALK FOR HOURS. EXPERIENCES, ANECDOTES,THE GOOD STUFF... SHE HAD THEM IN SPADES.

THE FUCK IS A ***HORSETAIL BUTTPLUG?!***

I CAN ***SHOW*** YOU!

EYES ***DOWN!***

FOR THREE MONTHS WE WOULD MEET EVERY WEEKEND. SHE WAS MY GUIDE IN THIS WORLD. TOOK ME TO SPECIAL SHOPS, CLUBS, FUN PLACES...

AND WE CALL THIS THE POST APOCALYPTIC SEX GEAR, BECAUSE DAMN IT, NOT EVEN ***ARMAGEDDON*** STOPS THE ***KINK*** TRAIN!

SHE...GOT UNDER MY SKIN.

AND SOON ENOUGH, FOR RESEARCH SAKE... I LET HER SHOW ME FIRST HAND, WHAT IT WAS LIKE.

I STARTED OBSESSING OVER HER, TRYING TO IMPRESS HER... AND SHE RESPONDED

A-HEM!

IT WAS AMAZING... AND THEN, AS IT OFTEN HAPPENS, A SMALL SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT EVENT CHANGED EVERYTHING.

WE WERE ATTENDING THIS FANCY FETISH PARTY WHEN I OVERHEARD ALLISON TALKING TO THIS DOMME WHO WAS BRAGGING ABOUT HER ADVENTURES WITH HER TWO SUBS.

THE WAY SHE TALKED TO ALLISON... THIS AURA OF CONDESCENSION PISSED ME THE FUCK OFF!

I DECIDED TO BACK HER UP...

I'M TELLING YOU! UNTIL YOU DO IT WITH MULTIPLE SUBS, AT THE SAME TIME,YOU HAVEN'T REALLY LIVED! HEH!

OH ALLISON CAN HANDLE TWO SUBS, IT'S JUST THAT SHE HAS... *HIGH* STANDARDS

YEAH, I'M... *PICKY!*

MHM... YOU DEFINITELY *PICKED* A DISRESPECTFUL SUB!

YYUP! AND IMMA BE *PUNISHED* FOR IT!

I KEPT ENCOURAGING HER. SHE WAS *BETTER* THAN OTHER DOMMES!

I WOULD HAVE SAID *ANYTHING* TO MAKE HER SMILE...

I WAS THE ONE WHO FIRST MENTIONED THE IDEA TO HER... I THOUGHT, HEY, IF WE TRIED IT OUT WITH ANOTHER SUB A FEW TIMES,SHE'D HAVE HER OWN STORIES TO TELL...

AND SO, FOUR MONTHS LATER, *ANNE* CAME INTO OUR LIVES.

ALLISON ACCEPTED HER AS A SUB. NAMED HER *SARAH*

AND THEN, WE WERE *THREE.*

I KNEW WHAT I WAS GETTING MYSELF INTO FROM THE BEGINNING.

OUR LITTLE ARRANGEMENT WAS PURELY *SEXUAL.*

A BIT OF *RESEARCH!*

AN *ADVENTURE...*

AND YET, I COULDN'T HELP IT. EVERY PASSING DAY, I GREW MORE AND MORE RESENTFUL.

EVERY TOUCH SHE GAVE TO SARAH FELT STOLEN FROM ME.

I WANTED IT ALL... I WANTED HER.

TRUTH IS...

I WAS *JEALOUS!*

AND ALLISON NOTICED!

JEALOUS?

UH... YEAH.

YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU CALLED ME AND SAID YOU WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN PERSON, READING YOUR NEWEST PIECE OF SMUT WAS *NOT* WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

I KNOW... IT'S JUST... I GUESS, I WANTED IT TO MEAN SOMETHING AND YOU SAID YOU LIKED MY STUFF, SO I THOUGHT IF I SORT OF EXPLAINED IT THROUGH A STORY... I DON'T KNOW... IT'S *DUMB*.

OH IT'S *DUMB*, ALRIGHT...

GOT MORE?

SO... IF I GET THIS *"LEMME EXPLAIN IT THROUGH MY STORY"* THING RIGHT... YOU WERE JEALOUS OF ME BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT, UM...

ALLY LIKED *ME?* I LIKED *HER?* *WHAT?*

BOTH, AND I THOUGHT, Y'KNOW... ALL OF MY WRITING ABOUT ALLISON LISBETH AND SARAH...

I THOUGHT ALLY MAY HAVE MISTAKEN IT FOR ME BEING INTERESTED IN A THREESOME

AND I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE INTERESTED IN... UH... WELL, JOINING... THE GAME.

SO...UM IRRATIONAL JEALOUSY GOT THE BEST OF ME.

I... I'M SORRY!

OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SORRY ABOUT THAT!

?

HONESTLY, IF YOU ASKED ME TO JOIN, WELL... THE ANSWER WOULD HAVE PROBABLY BEEN YES.

OH?

I MEAN DON'T GET ME WRONG... I CONSIDER YOU BOTH TO BE MY FRIENDS.

ON THE FLIPSIDE, I MAY HAVE GOTTEN HOOKED ON THIS KINKY STUFF..

LIKE YOU SAID... FINDING SOMEONE YOU *TRUST* IS HARD, AND AT THE TIME, I TRUSTED THE TWO OF YOU.

I FIGURED YOU MIGHT... Y'KNOW... SHOW ME THE ROPES.

THE WAY I SAW IT, YOU AND ALLY MADE THIS WHOLE *"FRIENDS WITH BDSM BENEFITS"* THING WORK.

WELL, THAT CRASHED AND BURNED.

UH... YEAH....

SOOO... CAN YOU FORGIVE ME? YOU KNOW... FOR NOT CALLING YOU, NOT APOLOGIZING, FOR ACTING LIKE..

WORLD BIGGEST SELF CENTERED BABY?

YES.

SO... WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS WITH ALLY?

PLANS?

WELL... ISN'T THIS BASED ON HER? I MEAN IS SHE OKAY WITH

OH, THAT? SHE SAID, SHE'S FINE WITH ME WRITING IT... WHICH BRINGS ME TO SOMETHING ELSE I HAD TO ASK YOU! ARE ***YOU*** OKAY WITH IT??

HUH?

WELL, I MEAN, SARAH IS KINDA .. WELL SHE IS PRETTY MUCH ***YOU,*** NOW.

OH, THAT. YEAH, BY ALL MEANS CARRY ON. LET ME ENJOY MY CRAZY IMAGINARY SEXCAPADES!

SPEAKING OF WHICH... UM WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH ALL OF THIS?

ALL OF WHAT?

WELL, IN YOUR STORY IT WAS INITIALLY IMPLIED THAT ***SARAH*** IS FALLING FOR ***LISBETH,*** AND NOW IT SEEMS THAT ***LISBETH*** HAS ACTUALLY FALLEN FOR ***ALLI...***

FOOF
FOOF

UM.. WELL...
I THOUGHT IT WAS...
OBVIOUS? I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INTERESTING IF I HAD LISBETH LIKE ALLISON BUT TRIES TO, I DON'T KNOW, ***IMPRESS*** HER WITH HOW ***OPEN*** TO NEW EXPERIENCES SHE IS... SO SHE ENCOURAGES ALLY TO FIND A SECOND SUB

...

BECAUSE, UM, SHE THINKS ALLY IS THE ***BEST*** DOMME, AND SO SHE HATES SEEING HER OUTPLAYED BY THAT OTHER DOMINATRIX. BUT THEN AFTER SARAH JOINS IN, EVEN THO LISBETH LIKES SARAH JUST ***FINE***, SHE ALSO GROWS PROGRESSIVELY MORE JEALOUS!

RIGHT....

I'M ***GOING*** SOMEWHERE WITH THIS!

OH..I BET YOU ARE...

YOU KNOW... I NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT ALLISON FROM YOUR STORIES

HUH??

SHE HAS BECOME FAR MORE... SOFTER... KINDA, DORKIER MORE ***HUMAN.***

UM... I GUESS?

A PERSON YOU COULD FALL IN ***LOVE*** WITH..

W---WHAT?

OH, NOTHING. I JUST ALWAYS FOUND AUTUMN TO BE ***ROMANTIC...*** DON'T YOU THINK SO, LISA?

I POSTED THE STORY ONLINE THAT EVENING.

NOW.... EVERY TIME I SENT IN THE NEW STORY, I WAS EXCITED, WAITING FOR THE COMMENTS

WAITING FOR PEOPLE TO NOTICE THE SUBTLETIES, THE DETAILS..

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, THE WAIT WAS A BIT STRESSFUL...

THAT DAY, I WAS WAITING FOR HER TO READ IT.

From Allycat: Well now!

That was...intense.

Good intense, or bad?

Good.

MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THESE LAST TWO WEEKS,
BUT SOME THINGS REMAINED THE SAME.
ALLY WAS STILL THERE, STILL READING MY STORIES.
OH...

AND STILL MISSING MY SIGNALS

ARGH!

THIS ALMOST READS LIKE...

DID SHE, LIKE, *MEAN* SOMETHING BY THIS?

OR IS SHE JUST... *WRITING?*

GODDAMNIT LISA!!! WHAT AM I LOOKING AT HERE!?

I'M GOING SOMEWHERE WITH THIS

I WAS LYING...

I HONESTLY HAD NO PLANS. MY MIND WAS TUNNELVISIONED ON ONE THOUGHT ALONE. ALLY WAS THERE READING... AND I WANTED TO KEEP HER THERE

SIMPLE, AND OBSESSIVE!

BUT THEN, AN IDEA STARTED BUZZING AROUND MY MIND. A MENTAL MOSQUITO IN THE DARK. VAGUE, UNDEFINED, AND NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CATCH.

I COULDN'T PIN IT DOWN, I JUST FELT LIKE I WAS MISSING SOMETHING OBVIOUS. SOMETHING ***BIG!***

AND THEN, I FINALLY HAD IT!

I HAD JUST WRITTEN A STORY WITH A DEEPER PURPOSE. AN ***INTENTIONAL*** METAPHOR.

IT WAS A STORY WRITTEN OUT OF ***NECESSITY.*** I DIDN'T KNOW HOW EXPLAIN TO ANNE WHY I WAS ACTING LIKE SUCH A DILDO... YOU KNOW, WITHOUT STUMBLING OVER MY OWN SENSE OF EMBARASSMENT.

SO I MADE LISBETH EXPLAIN IT FOR ME.

IT WAS A DESPERATE IDEA.., SURE!

BUT IT *WORKED!*

ANNE GOT IT! IN FACT, I HAD AN UNNERVING SUSPICION SHE MAY HAVE FOUND MORE IN IT THAN I EVER PLANNED... I WASN'T SURE HOW FAR SHE SAW THROUGH ME, BUT SHE GAVE ME AN *IDEA.*

IF I COULD EXPLAIN MY ACTIONS TO ANNE THROUGH A STORY... THEN *MAYBE...*

MAYBE *ALLY* WAS PICKING UP ON IT AS WELL?

MY ONLINE STORIES WERE PORN. SHORT AND SIMPLE.

THEY WERE NEVER REALLY MADE WITH MUCH FORETHOUGHT, NO BIG PICTURE....

THAT DAY, HOWEVER... FOR THE FIRST TIME I SAW THE BIG PICTURE

AND I STARTED FORMING A SKETCH

WITH WORDS... CAUSE, Y'KNOW, NOT REALLY A PAINTER!

I!

WAS!

ON!

FIRE!

1 MY JEALOUSY

2 MY APPRECIATION

DRIVEN BY A SIMPLE, AND POWERFUL IDEA!

3 MY FRIENDSHIP

4 MY MISTRESS

THE WAY I SAW IT, IF A ROUGH RELATIVELY UNPLANNED STORY COULD EXPLAIN MY THOUGHTS TO ANNE.

THEN FIVE THOUGHT OUT STORIES COULD ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING MUCH MORE...

...WONDERFUL!

OKAY...THIS IS GOING TO BE THE ONE...

5 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMASS
MY LOVE

I'M BETTING EVERYTHING ON YOU! SO DON'T FAIL ME!

PLEASE!

NEXT DAY, I PRACTICALLY RAN HOME FROM WORK. THERE WAS WRITING TO BE DONE!

THINGS STARTED FALLING INTO PLACE, CONCEPTS, IDEAS.

THE STORY I MADE FOR ANNE, TURNED UP TO BE THE *PERFECT* OPENING ACT.

I COULD *BUILD* ON IT.

HINDSIGHT IS 20/20 IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FACE YOUR OWN FUCKUPS. AND I HAD TO DO JUST THAT.

I BROUGHT ANNE INTO OUR LIVES, I BEFRIENDED HER. WROTE HER INTO OUR STORY, INTRODUCED HER TO ALLY AND THEN THROUGH MY OWN INSECURITY, GREW JEALOUS OF HER...

AND THEN, MY MIND WENT TO SOME FUCKED UP PLACES.

I APOLOGIZED TO ANNE, BUT NOW I NEEDED ALLY TO UNDERSTAND. I NEEDED HER TO KNOW HOW SORRY I WAS FOR WHAT ENDED UP BEING BOTH THE CANCER IN OUR ODD RELATIONSHIP, AND THE TITLE OF THE FIRST STORY.

MY JEALOUSY

DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE, LISBETH?

I SPENT ALMOST A YEAR OBSERVING YOUR BODY LANGUAGE, LEARNING THE ALPHABET OF YOUR EVERY MOAN, SIGH, AND WINCE! DECIPHERING THE MEANING OF EVERY LOOK IN YOUR EYES

DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T SEE THE ***POISON*** IN THEM?

I THOUGHT BY NOW AFTER ALL THIS TIME, YOU KNEW ME BETTER!

I MEAN... ***JEALOUSY!?***

REALLY?

AFTER ALL YOUR PUSHING FOR ANOTHER SUB!?

"ALLISON CAN DO IT!" "ALLISON WOULD ROCK THAT!"

HEY, ALLISON! WHAT DO YOU THINK!? TWO SUBS, LIKE ONE OF THOSE 80'S PAINTINGS ONE CLINGING TO EACH OF YOUR LEGS!?

REMEMBER!?

I REMEMBERED.

KSST
KSST

AND THEN I FIND YOU A PLAYMATE AND YOU GET ALL PISSY ABOUT IT?

WHAT? WERE YOU LACKING MY ATTENTION?

WELL, YOU'RE IN LUCK! SINCE SARAH IS OFF ATTENDING HER TATTOO CONVENTION, YOU WILL HAVE MY FULL UNDIVIDED ATTENTION FOR A FEW DAYS

KSST

MPF!

HEH... I KINDA WONDER IF YOU'RE SMILING UNDER THAT MUZZLE

I WAS... AS MUCH AS THE INFLATABLE GAG ALLOWED... WHICH WASN'T MUCH.

WE DO HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO DISCUSS, BUT FIRST...

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE WARM UP WITH SOME FUNTIME?

MMPH!

COMFY?

MMH!

I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES!

SHE KNEW ME WELL...

OH, BY THE WAY... YOU KNOW HOW YOU KEPT SAYING I CAN TAKE CARE OF TWO SUBS?! AND THEN I DID JUST THAT! WELL, TURNS OUT IT SCREWED UP MY DOMME CALLIBRATION, NOW I'M USED TO HANDLING TWO SUBS...

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS! SINCE I ONLY HAVE YOU HERE, DOUBLE THE PLEASURE...

YAY!

AND DOUBLE THE *PAIN!*

OH CRAP!

DA-DING-DONG

BWAHTHEFUCK?

REALLY?!?

NOW?!?

YOU GOTTA BE SHITTING ME WITH THIS TIMING!

DA-DING-DONG

DA-DING-DONG

I'M COMING, HOLD YOUR HORSES!

SPLUSH SPLOSH

UGH...

!?

ANNE?

GOT A MINUTE?

ACTUALLY...

MAKE A MINUTE!

WE GOTTA TALK!

SOOO... EARLIER THAT DAY.

My jealousy

ANNE, YOU GOT MORE CLIENTS?

NAH, JUST DOING SOME SKETCHING FOR MY 12.30 TOMORROW.

OH, OKAY THEN I CAN SQUEEZE IN ONE OF MINE.

SURE, GO AHEAD!

HEH...

YOU HAD ME FOOLED FOR A MOMENT...

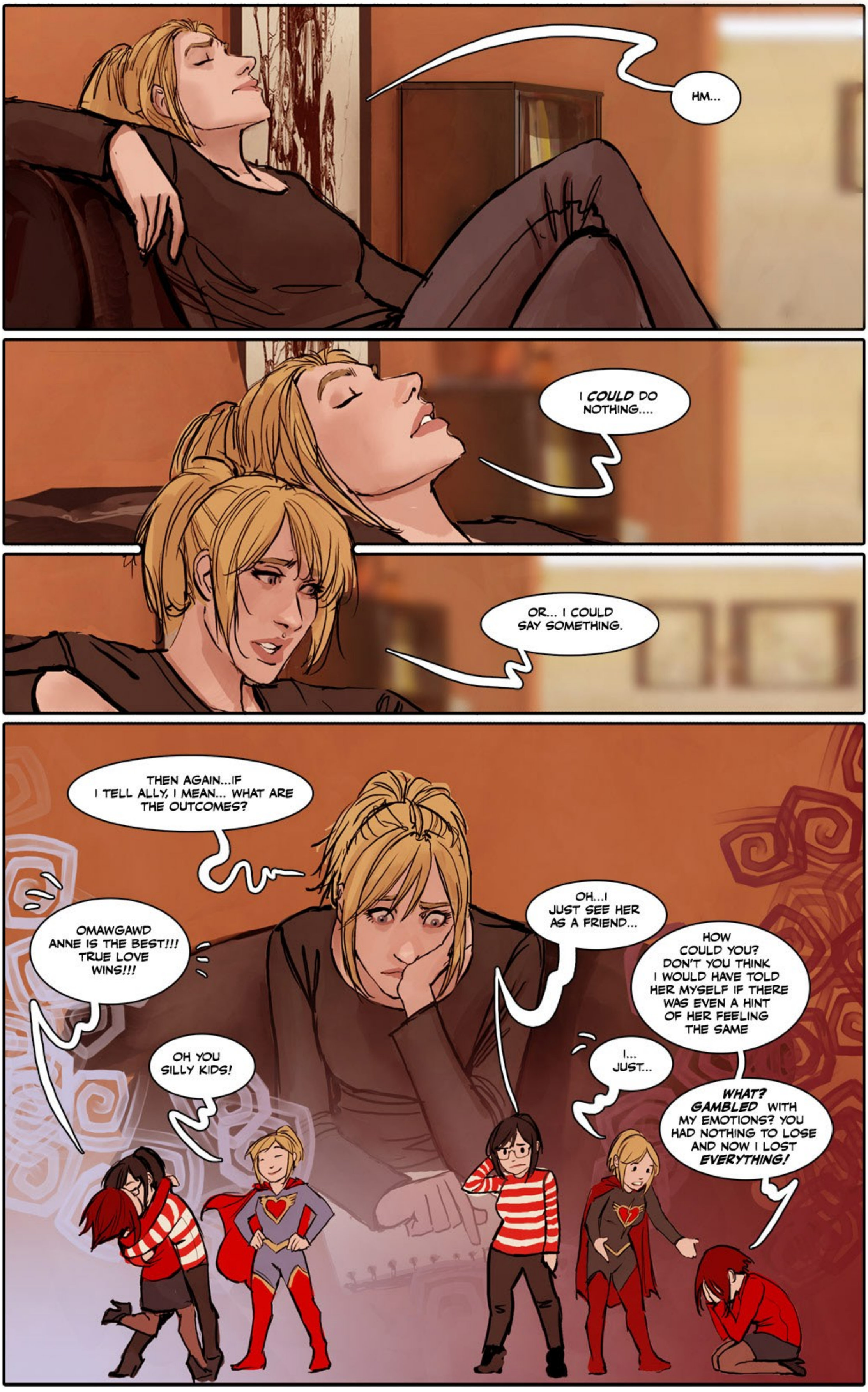
WHEN YOU GOT ALL DRAMA QUEEN ON ME, I THOUGHT, THE BEST FRIENDS JEALOUSY... HELL, I HAD THAT SHIT IN COLLEGE WITH CASIE. I *GET* THAT...

BUT OH NO, LISA!

I'VE *SEEN* THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES!

YOU'RE TOTALLY IN LOVE!

BUT... WHAT ABOUT *ALLY?*


HM...
I COULD DO NOTHING....
OR... I COULD SAY SOMETHING.
THEN AGAIN...IF I TELL ALLY, I MEAN... WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES?
OMAWGAWD ANNE IS THE BEST!!! TRUE LOVE WINS!!!
OH YOU SILLY KIDS!
OH...I JUST SEE HER AS A FRIEND...
HOW COULD YOU? DON'T YOU THINK I WOULD HAVE TOLD HER MYSELF IF THERE WAS EVEN A HINT OF HER FEELING THE SAME
I... JUST...
WHAT? GAMBLED WITH MY EMOTIONS? YOU HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AND NOW I LOST EVERYTHING!

UH...ANNE?
HUH-WHAT?
YOU WANNA LIKE, GO HOME? CAUSE, YOU'RE TALKING TO YOURSELF AND... WELL IT'S A BIT *CREEPY* TO LISTEN TO!
OH... RIGHT! SORRY!
OKAY, SO, WHAT IS IT?
UM...
NOPE!
WHAT DO YOU FEEL FOR LISA
DO YOU MISS LISA?
NOPE!
UM... LISA... STARTED *WRITING* AGAIN.
I NOTICED.
UHM...

ALLY!!!

BUH- WHAT!?

YOU THINK THEE ARE MAYBE, UH... SUBTLE *HINTS* IN LISA'Y STORIES?

IT'S...*PORN!*

GOOD PORN, BUT STILL... YKNOW, *PORN!*

NO, I MEAN, LIKE... THERE'S A DEEPER MEANING TO WHAT THE CHARACTERS ARE GOING THROUGH!

AGAIN... *PORN!*

IN HER LATEST STORY... UM... LISBETH IS JEALOUS OF SARAH... OF... ME.

I WAS ACTUALLY *JUST* READING IT.

OH... UM...

SEE... UM..THING IS, I MET WITH LISA A FEW DAYS AGO

OH?

SHE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR... HALOWEEN, AND NOT CALLING...

THING IS, HER PREVIOUS STORY... UM... SHE WANTED ME TO READ IT. SHE... WANTED TO EXPLAIN HER ISSUES.

SHE WAS JEALOUS...OF YOU AND ME BECOMING FRIENDS AND... KINDA LOST IT I GUESS.

I SEE...

MY POINT IS, UM... SHE USED THE STORY TO PUT IT INTO WORDS...

SO... YOU THINK SHE..UM... WHAT *ARE* YOU THINKING?

I THINK SHE IS WRITING ***MESSAGES***...

?

TO *YOU!*

...

ANNE... SHE BASED THOSE STORIES ON US...

I KNOW.

NO, JUST... LET ME FINISH.

HER STORIES, THE ONES ABOUT ALLISON AND LISBETH...THEY ARE SORT OF A COMPILATION OF FANTASIES WE JOKED ABOUT OR DISCUSSED ONLINE...

I'LL GIVE YOU SOME EXAMPLES! THERE IS A STORY ABOUT US THAT HEAVILY INVOLVES ***ENEMA*** PLAY.

WE ***NEVER*** DID ENEMA PLAY!

SHE STILL WROTE A STORY ABOUT IT.

Lisbeth

SO, SHE PULLED IT OUT OF HER ASS, HUH?

HEH... YEAH, I GUESS SO.

AND, HONESTLY THAT'S TRUE FOR MOST OF HER WRITING.

SHE HAS SIX STORIES OF ***PONYPLAY*** ALONE.

WHILE I HAVE CONSIDERED IT, WE NEVER ACTUALLY DID THAT.

NEVER DID PETPLAY, OR PUBLIC HUMILIATION... IT WAS ALL JUST TWO HORNY PEOPLE ONLINE DISCUSSING CRAZY IDEAS.

Lisbeth

THESE IDEAS WERE *HOT,* SHE WROTE AMAZING STORIES BASED ON THEM, BUT ON ANY REALISTIC LEVEL WE WERE BOTH AWARE WE WOUDN'T ACTUALLY *DO IT.*

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING SHE TOLD ME ONCE. THE LAW OF WRITING PORN STATES THAT THE RULE OF *HOT* TRUMPS THE RULE OF *REAL!*

Lisbeth

The unseen leash

I GET ALL THAT... I JUST THINK YOU MAY BE MISSING THE *SUBTEXT...*

ANNE, FOR *FUCK'S* SAKE! I'M NOT AN IDIOT! *OF COURSE* THERE IS SUBTEXT THERE!

MY POINT IS, WHICH ONE WOULD YOU HAVE ME TAKE SERIOUSLY? THE VAGUE *EMOTIONA*L SUBTEXT, BASED ON NOTHING BUT STORYLINE HINTS? OR DO I GO WITH *SEXUAL* SUBTEXT BASED ON HER WILD IMAGINATION?

AND *WHEN* DO I CHOOSE WHICH? DON'T GET ME WRONG! SOMETIMES I READ HER STUFF AND WONDER IF THERE IS MORE TO IT, BUT I'M *NOT* GOING TO GO *CHERRYPICKING* THROUGH HER PORN STORIES TO TRY AND DECIPHER SOME *SECRET MESSAGE!!!*

SHE'S NOT A *TEENAGER,* IF SHE HAS SOMETHING TO TELL ME, SHE WILL.

WHAT IF IT'S SOMETHING SHE *CAN'T* TELL YOU TO YOUR FACE BECAUSE...

BECAUSE?

BECAUSE, MAYBE SHE'S *AFRAID* OF YOUR *RESPONSE!*

RIGHT IN THE PERSONAL INSECURITY!

ANYWAYS, I'LL GO NOW. I SAID WHAT I HAD TO SAY...

ANNE, *WAIT!*

WHAT IS THIS *REALLY* ABOUT?

I THINK...

I *HOPE* YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON... JUST....

READ THE STORIES!

ANNE THOUGHT HER CHOICES WERE SAY SOMETHING, OR SAY NOTHING

IF SHE SAID SOMETHING TO ALLY, SHE FELT SHE WOULD BE PUTTING ME INTO A VERY AWKWARD POSITION, ESPECIALLY IF MY FEELINGS WERE ONE SIDED...

INSTEAD OF CHOOSING EITHER OPTION... ANNE TOOK A DIFFERENT PATH. THING IS, ALLY WASN'T DUMB. SHE MERELY REFUSED TO ALLOW HERSELF TO HOPE. SHE HAS BEEN HURT BY THAT DECEPTIVE FRIENDZONE FLOWER BEFORE.

SHE *LOVES* ME, SHE LOVES ME *NOT*...

THAT DAY, THANKS TO ANNE, ALLY THOUGHT... MAYBE JUST A *COUPLE* MORE PETALS...

DON'T OVERTHINK PORN!

IF THERE WAS A LIST OF RULES FOR PORN, THAT ONE WOULD BE PRETTY HIGH UP THERE.

KIND OF A SISTER RULE TO *PORN DOESN'T REPRESENT THE REALITY OF SEX!*

IN PORN, RULE OF HOT TRUMPS THE RULE OF REAL!

I MEAN, HOW MANY PIZZA DELIVERIES END IN GAMES OF HIDE THE SALAMI? AMIRITE?

BUT YEAH... *DON'T OVERTHINK PORN*... SIMPLE, MAKES SENSE... SO NATURALLY, I SHIT ALL OVER THAT RULE BY HIDING IMPORTANT MESSAGES WITHIN MY OWN BIT OF SMUT.

AND IF THEY EXISTED, ALLY WAS *ADAMANT* TO FIND THEM!

HMMM...

UH... CAN WE HELP YOU?

NONO, JUST CARRY ON, IGNORE ME!

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING *IMPORTANT!*

WELL... UM, THIS WAS HOW *I* IMAGINED IT.

JOKING ASIDE, ALLY READ THE STORY WITH A NERVOUS KNOT IN HER STOMACH.

HOPING THAT ANNE WAS RIGHT...

FEARING THAT SHE WASN'T.

LIKE SHE SAID... IT WAS PORN.

SEARCHING FOR DEPTH IN THAT IS KINDA LIKE RENTING A SUBMARINE TO INVESTIGATE A PUDDLE.

BUT THEN, ALL OF A SUDDEN.. THE PUDDLE GOT DEEPER.

SEE, I DID A THING SO RARE, IT MAY AS WELL BE CALLED A UNICORN

I ADDED A SCENE OF ***AFTERCARE*** TO MY PORN STORY

LET'S BE HONEST THAT'S LIKE HAVING SNUGGLING AND A TALK SCENE AFTER SEX IN REGULAR PORN.

YOU DON'T SEE IT OFTEN. AND ALLY KNEW... THIS ***HAD*** TO BE IT!

THREE TIMES SHAKING YOUR HEAD WHEN GAGGED....

THAT WAS THE ***STOP*** SIGNAL

SO... YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN TO ME WHY YOU'D LET ME TAKE IT ***THIS*** FAR?

DIDN'T YOU ***LIKE*** IT?

WELL... YES! BUT I PREFER THAT ***BOTH*** MY INNER ***SADIST*** AND YOUR ***SUBMISSIVE*** SIDE ARE SATISFIED... USUALLY YOUR LIMITS ARE MUCH LOWER.

WHAT ABOUT THAT WHOLE *DOUBLE THE PLEASURE DOUBLE THE PAIN* BUSINESS?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULLSHIT! YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THEATRICALITY AND ***EXAGGERATION*** ARE THE FOUNDATIONS OF DOM SPEECH!

SO, WHAT'S THE ***REAL*** REASON?

BECAUSE ... I DON'T KNOW... I NEEDED IT, NO, I ***DESERVED*** IT!

UHUH, THAT'S ***EVERY*** SUB EVER, YOU GONNA HAVE TO BE ***WAY*** MORE SPECIFIC!

TRY AGAIN?

I MEAN IT! WHAT YOU TOLD ME...THE ***POISON*** YOU SAW IN MY EYES IT'S ***TRUE!***

I GUESS, IT WAS ***OBVIOUS,*** HUH...USUALLY I JUST LOOK AT YOU WITH... I DON'TKNOW... ***REVERENCE.***

KHM ***WHAT?***

DON'T LAUGH! YOU INTRODUCED ME TO ALL OF THIS, YOU EXPANDED MY HORIZONS AND TURNED MY LIFE INTO AN AMAZING ADVENTURE... I GUESS... WELL, I WANTED TO HELP EXPAND YOURS.

LIKE I SAID... I IDOLIZED YOU! YOU BECAME MY ***IDEAL*** OF A DOMINATRIX... YOU COULD DO ***ANYTHING.***

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...

WELL, THAT IS HOW I SAW YOU... ALLY!

IT WAS A ***SMALL*** DETAIL... SOMETHING THAT SHE MIGHT HAVE MISSED OTHERWISE... BUT NOT ***THAT*** DAY. THANKS TO ANNE, SHE WAS PAYING ATTENTION. THERE WERE SOME THINGS SHE KNEW ABOUT ALLISON FROM MY STORIES. ONE OF THE BIG ONES WAS...

IN MY STORIES, LISBETH ***NEVER*** CALLED HER ***ALLY.***

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, LISBETH WASN'T SPEAKING TO STORY ALLISON. SHE SPOKE TO ALLY, AND ALLY LISTENED!.

WELL...ALLY READ IT... ***WHATEVER!*** YOU GET MY POINT!

THAT WAS THE REASON I ENCOURAGED THIS IDEA OF ANOTHER SUB...

AND THEN WHEN THE CHANCE APPEARED, WHEN SARAH...NO, WHEN ***ANNE*** CAME INTO OUR LIVES I ***PANICKED.*** SHE WAS ATTRACTIVE, ARTISTIC... FUN! AND, LIKE ME, A SEXUAL SUBMISSIVE. I GREW JEALOUS, I FELT SO REPLACEABLE.

AND IN THIS ENVIRONMENT OF MASKS I HID MY JEALOUSY... MY RESENTMENT...

I NOTICED...

I WAS AN INSECURE JEALOUS IDIOT, I AM TRULY AND HONESTLY ***SORRY...*** ALLY!

HEH... ***SONOFA BITCH!***

I read your newest story....

And?

That apology felt sincere.

It was

You picked up on it, huh?

I'm smart like that, heh...

I never had the chance to tell you this, Ally, but i truly am sorry for my part.

As am I.

You know, tho... i can't help but notice

What?

You make it seem like lisbeth was the only one to blame in their situation. allison certainly never hesitated to bang anne's brains out in that office :P

Well, yeah! But if I went into that discussion the whole thing would have gotten all diluted and then you might have missed my little apology...

I would have noticed

really?

Hell no! XD

Heh!

That punishment and sex scene tho... Holy fuck, what have i done to you!? O_o

AND THERE WE WERE... NOT QUITE BACK WHERE WE WERE, BUT STILL, TALKING TO EACH OTHER. JUST MY ALLYCAT AND ME...

IT WAS *SMALL* STEPS, SURE...

THEN AGAIN, THAT'S THE THING... BURNING BRIDGES IS *EASY.*

REBUILDING THEM TAKES TIME.

TAKES PATIENCE...

AFTER ALL, WE BUILT OURS OUT OF PETALS.

SHE LOVES ME...

SHE LOVES ME NOT...

SHE...

TOO FLOWERY?

WELL, FUCK IT!

I *LIKE* FLOWERS!

I SUBMITTED THE SECOND OF THE FIVE STORIES ON DECEMBER SIXTH. FOUR DAYS BEFORE MY BIRTHDAY IN FACT.

BI-BLIP

Anne:
She uploaded a new story!

KEEP THE CHANGE!

?

CAREFUL!

HEY, EXCUSE ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MRS KRAMER'S STUFF?

OH, HEY! UH YOU ARE *ALICE*, RIGHT?

ALLISON! UH, HOW DID YOU...

SHE TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU! SAID YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE OUR NIECE BETHANY, JUST *LESS* PIERCED!

BOB KRAMER, PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!

OH, SO YOU'RE HER... UH?

SON!

AH! UM, SO WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

MOM IS MOVING IN WITH US. SHE'S DIABETIC, AND SINCE OUR SON JUST GOT MARRIED AND MOVED OUT... WELL, WE TALKED IT OVER AND FIGURED IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST...

SO HERE I AM PICKING UP THE *IMPORTANT* STUFF. SHE'LL COME BACK FOR THE *BIG* MOVE.

BUT YES! SPEAKING OF THE IMPORTANT STUFF I ACTUALLY WANTED TO DROP BY.

OH, RIGHT SHE'LL WANT BONKERS BACK.

UH..YES. WELL, ACTUALLY, WE'RE TAKING BONKERS TO THE PET SHELTER MOLLY, MY WIFE IS ALLERGIC TO CATS, SO...

OH...

...

I'LL TAKE HER!

HEH...

HAHAHAHHAH

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

MOM *TOLD ME* YOU'D SAY THAT.

SAID YOU WERE A *CAT PERSON* LIKE HER. SHE LIKES THAT ABOUT YOU!

WELL.. I GUESS THAT'S SETTLED THEN

OH... ONE THING!

YES?

BONKERS IS FEMALE... DID SHE KNOW THAT?

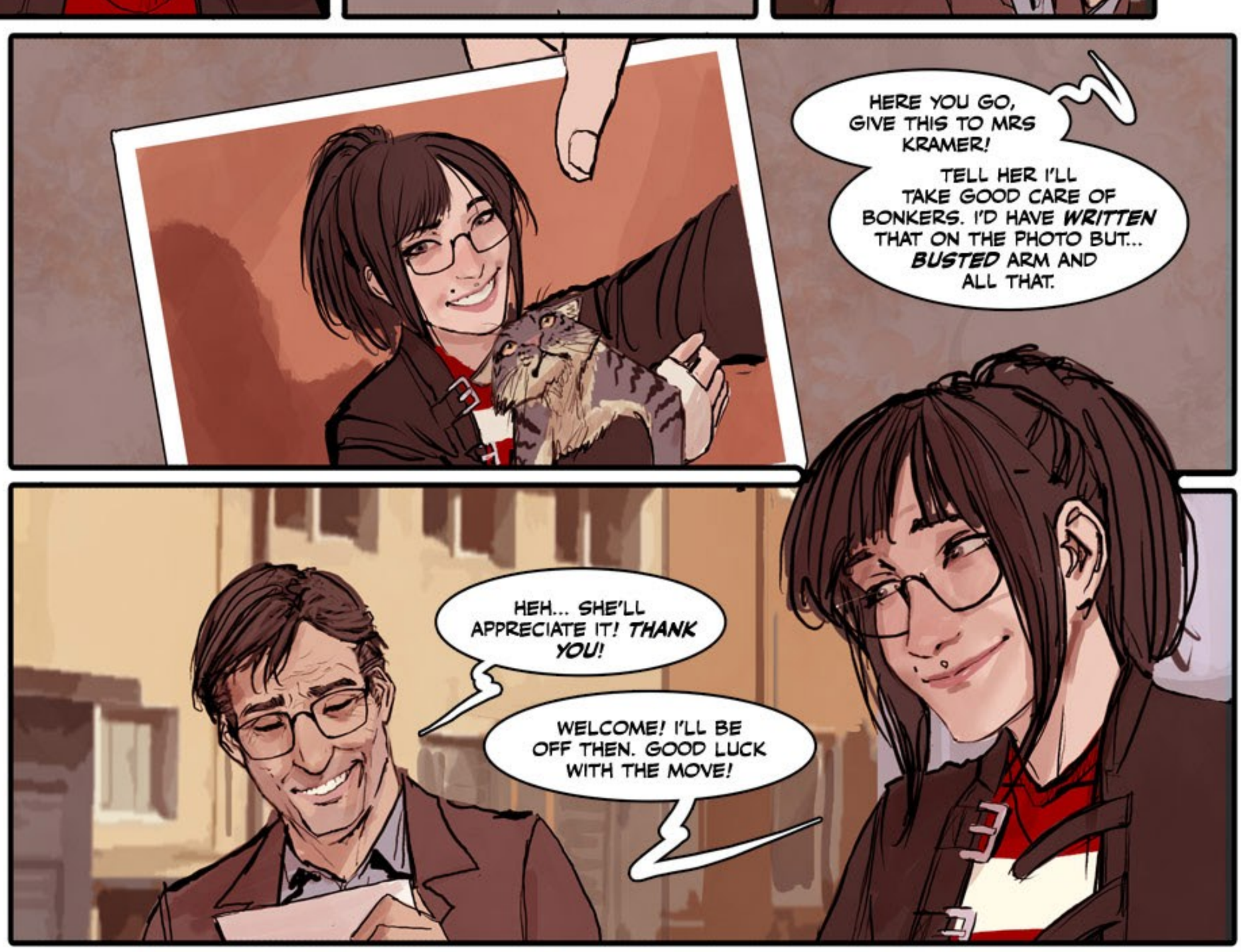
HEH... WHEN I WAS A BOY WE HAD A TABBY NAMED MR BONKERS.

IT DIED... WE GOT ANOTHER ONE... NAMED IT THE SAME...

I GUESS IT BECAME A TRADITION.

I THINK THIS ONE IS TECHNICALLY MR BONKERS *THE FOURTH!*

HEH...
CAN YOU WAIT HERE FOR LIKE FIVE MINUTES?
HUH? OH YEAH! SURE! THIS WILL TAKE A WHILE ANYWAYS


HERE YOU GO, GIVE THIS TO MRS KRAMER!
TELL HER I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF BONKERS. I'D HAVE *WRITTEN* THAT ON THE PHOTO BUT... *BUSTED* ARM AND ALL THAT.
HEH... SHE'LL APPRECIATE IT! *THANK YOU!*
WELCOME! I'LL BE OFF THEN. GOOD LUCK WITH THE MOVE!

SO... GUESS YOU'LL BE *STAYING*, HUH?
HEH...
WELL, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!

I SAID *MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME!* THAT DOESN'T MEAN *WALK ALL OVER ME!*

OH WHO AM I KIDDING?

NAP AWAY, FURBALL!

MOMMY'S GOT SOME READING TO DO!

MY APPRECIATION

CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK CLINK

A TOTAL AND COMPLETE LOSS OF CONTROL...

THE FEELING OF GROUND ESCAPING YOU AS ROPES BITE INTO YOUR FLESH AND YOU REVEL IN YOUR OWN *HELPLESSNESS...*

I GUESS THAT WAS WHY I WAS UTTERLY FASCINATED BY THE IDEA OF ***SUSPENSION*** BONDAGE

MAYBE SHE FELT A BIT SORRY ABOUT THE BRUISES SHE INFLICTED THE LAST TIME...

BUT THE SECOND DAY AFTER ANNE LEFT, ALLISON DECIDED TO FULFILL THIS DESIRE OF MINE.

IT WAS HOT, INTENSE AND A BIT EMBARRASSING. I REMEMBER THINKING: *"SHIT! I'LL END UP DROOLING ALL OVER HER LIKE THIS!"*

BUT EVEN WHEN I DID, SHE JUST GRINNED,

STILL, EVEN IN MY PREDICAMENT I NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT HER SMILE. SHE MAY HAVE LEARNED THE LANGUAGE OF MY BODY OVER TIME BUT I LEARNED A THING OR TWO ABOUT HER ***SMILES...***

THEY WERE WRY...

SEDUCTIVE...

DEPENDING ON SITUATION, ***SADISTIC.***

BUT WHEN SOMETHING BOTHERED HER...

THEY NEVER TOUCHED HER EYES.

THEN AGAIN I COULD'VE BEEN WRONG... I MEAN, EVERY TIME I LOOKED AT HER FACE, I ENDED UP DROOLING ALL OVER HER BECAUSEOF THE RING GAG. THEN SHE MOCKED ME FOR IT...

I'LL ADMIT, MY THOUGHTS DWELLED ON HER LOOK VERY BRIEFLY. YOU CAN ONLY HANG ON TO RATIONAL THOUGHTS FOR SO LONG BEFORE YOU ARE REDUCED TO A PILE OF ORGASMIC MESS.

THE WEEK THAT ANNE WAS AWAY, I FELT PAMPERED. ALSO ***BRUISED***, BUT MOSTLY PAMPERED.

SHE TOOK ME TO PERFORMANCES, MEETUPS, MUNCHES...

AND IT WAS DURING ONE OF THESE PERFORMANCES, I LEARNED THE TRUTH BEHIND HER LOOK

HEY KARA! DID YOU SEE ALLISON? I SWEAR SHE WAS HERE LIKE A SECOND AGO!

OH, SHE'LL BE BACK. SHE ALWAYS AVOIDS THESE SUSPENSION ACTS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *AVOIDS*?

INTENSELY DISLIKES AND DISTANCES HERSELF FROM THEM?

REALLY? SHE DID IT WITH ME!

YOU DON'T SAY?

WHAT'S WITH THE SURPRISED LOOK?

SHE'S AN *AMAZING* DOMME

NONO, I DON'T *DOUBT* IT... IT'S JUST, I'VE KNOWN HER FOR YEARS

SHE IS... WELL, SHE *WAS*, SQUEAMISH ABOUT SUSPENSION STUFF...

O---KAY? BUT *WHY?*

MAY AS WELL TELL YOU SINCE I BROUGHT IT UP...

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO HER FRIEND PARTICIPATED IN A SUSPENSION RIGGING PHOTOSHOOT PERFORMANCE EVENT IN THIS OLD FACTORY BUILDING. ALLISON AND A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE ATTENDED. APPARENTLY IT WAS A GREAT SHOW... TILL IT ALL WENT TO SHIT.

THE CREW EXAMINED THE SPACE WELL, *TRIPLECHECKED* THE SUSPENSION POINTS AND ALL.. BUT THAT'S THE THING WITH OLD BUILDINGS, THEY HIDE OLD CANCERS...

NOTHING IN LIFE IS ACCIDENT PROOF, OR FOOLPROOF.

MID PERFORMANCE, THE ROOF BEAM GAVE OUT, COLLAPSED ON THE HER FRIEND, FUCKING UP THE WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION AT THE SAME TIME.

IT GOT UGLY...

HER FRIEND GOT INJURED... ALLISON WAS IN THE FRONT ROW. POINT IS, EVER SINCE, SHE AVOIDED SUSPENSION DEMONSTRATIONS.

STILL, IF SHE DID IT WITH YOU, SEEMS SHE MIGHT BE GETTING OVER IT! SO, AWESOME, RIGHT?

RIGHT...

I KNEW THEN AND THERE

THE LOOK IN HER EYES IT WAS UNEASE... FEAR...

CONCERN....

AND YET, SHE DID IT. SHE DID IT BECAUSE *I* WANTED IT.

SHE ALWAYS ENDED UP FULFILLING MY FANTASIES.

OH, UH... HEY I WAS GOING TO GET US SOME DRINKS AND...

I HUGGED HER... I HUGGED MY ALLY BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO EVEN ***EXPRESS*** MY APPRECIATION.

I JUST KNEW I DIDN'T WANT TO LET GO!

OVERKILL

This one hit hard...

Ahem... sorry bout that.

I'm guessing it was about our last time... about the ropes?

Yes! but more than that. it's about everything you did for me. every fantasy fulfilled. it all meant the world to me.

HM...

Your little gift meant the world to me as well. Not that i ever had the chance to play with them! :P

Your little gift meant thl

Thank you :)

Oh hey, guess what, Bonkers is staying with me permanently!

Really? Heh, well at least you got to keep one roommate XD

Really? Heh, well al

Really? Hah that's awesome

YEAH. WE DID THIS A LOT... CHERRYPICKING WORDS, TREADING CAREFULLY ON THIS FRAGILE BRIDGE OF PETALS WE WERE BUILDING TOWARDS EACH OTHER... BUT, EVEN A CAREFUL STEP IS A STEP CLOSER.

IT WAS DECEMBER TENTH...

MY BIRTHDAY.

DING DONG

JUST A SECOND!

A-ALLY!?

HEY!

AND ALLY TOOK A STEP OF HER OWN.

UHM...SOOO... HAPPY BIRTHDAY?

LINE?

UHM...I HOPED I COULD STUFF IT INTO YOUR MAILBOX... BUT IT WAS TOO LARGE.

AAAARGH!!! SOMETHING CLEVER! COME OOON!!!

UHM...THAT'S WHAT *HE* SAID?

WOW!

I... UH, YEAH...

GOOD THING THAT YOU TOLD ME YOU *PLAN* YOUR STORIES CAUSE YOUR AD LIBBING *SUCKS!*

HEY! SHAKESPEARE CHOKED AT TIMES TOO! I'M... GUESSING?

HEH... WELL, ANYWAYS HERE YOU GO! LIKE I SAID, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

THANK YOU! SOOO, YOU WANNA COME IN?

NO, I...UM.. I JUST WANTED TO GIVE YOU THIS, I DON'T WANT TO BE IN... I DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE.

YOU AREN'T!

NO... ACTUALLY... UH, I HONESTLY HAVE A CRAPTON OF WORK TO FINISH! ARM WAS BUSTED FOR TOO LONG AND WHEN YOU'RE FREELANCING, IT'S A BAD IDEA TO BLOW OFF DEADLINES... HELL, LOOK AT ME, MY EYES ARE A MESS! I LOOK MORE TIRED THAN ALAN, AND THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING!

AND YET YOU CAME HERE...

WELL, I HAD TO! NOT EVERY DAY A LADY TURNS, WHAT WAS IT AGAIN? *FORTY?*

HILARIOUS!

HEH! SEE YA, LISA!

ALLY!

WHAT?

PLEASE.... KEEP READING! OKAY?

O--OKAY!

Bound

I figured you could use a reference book
Happy birthday, Lisa
Ally

HER HANDWRITING WAS SHAKY, INSECURE. I WASN'T SURE IF IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER ARM INJURY... OR NERVOUSNESS... I FELL ASLEEP HUGGING THE BOOK THAT NIGHT.

I...DIDN'T SLEEP MUCH

LISA!

HUH?

YOU FORGOT TO PUT COFFEE INTO THE MACHINE.

OH... SO I DID!

NEXT LEVEL DECAF, HUH?

HEH... SO, WHAT'S BUGGING YOU?

N---

DON'T SAY NOTHING! I'VE BEEN COVERING YOUR FUCKUPS FOR OVER A MONTH NOW!

IT'S NOT A ***GLAMOUROUS*** JOB BUT USUALLY YOU ARE ***GOOD*** AT IT!

FINE, MISS INSIGHT! IT'S RELATIONSHIP STUFF...

WE OPEN IN TEN MINUTES. WANNA TALK ABOUT IT?

NAH... IT'S...

COMPLICATED.

I'VE ***HAD*** COMPLICATED EXPERIENCES.

I DON'T THINK YOU COULD RELATE.

...

I DON'T MEAN THAT IN A *CONDESCENDING* WAY, IT'S JUST...

UHUH! SAY, DID I EVER SHOW YOU A PHOTO OF MY *WIFE?*

NO *WAIT!* YOU'RE...

HAPPILY MARRIED!

OH, GOD! I'M A *MORON!*

YOU KNOW, I ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE WHOLE *SAME SEX* THING.

REALLY?

YEAH... I DON'T KNOW, THE FIRST TIME YOU ASKED ME IF I WAS A LESBIAN...

WHAT ABOUT IT?

THE WAY YOU SAID IT, *LESBIAN!* YOU SOUNDED, UM... JUDGY?

LIKE THIS? *LESBIAN!*

ACTUALLY, YEAH! JUST LIKE THAT!

LISA, I'M FROM TEXAS!

OH, GOD! IT'S AN *ACCENT* THING

YEAH, MY FAMILY MOVED AWAY WHEN I WAS NINE, SO NOT MUCH OF THE DRAWL REMAINED BUT IT *DOES* POP UP EVERY NOW AND THEN.

SO, COME ON! WHAT'S EATING YOU?.

IS IT EMOTIONAL STUFF, OR.. Y'KNOW.. DEALING WITH THE WHOLE SEXUALITY THING?

OH, IT'S *NOT* THE SEXUALITY!

AH... OKAY, CAUSE, YOU ALWAYS GET KINDA *SNAP-OFFISH* WHEN THE TOPIC COMES UP SO I FIGURED THAT'S WHAT BUGGED YOU.

I DON'T KNOW, YOU HAD THIS VIBE OF SOMEONE BOTH IN *HIDING*, AND IN *DENIAL.*

I HAD SOME EXPERIENCE. WITH THE *HIDING* PART

HONESTLY... IT WAS ALL SO NEW AND SUDDEN I DON'T THINK I EVEN HAD THE TIME TO STRESS OUT ABOUT THE WHOLE SEXUALITY THING...

I MEAN, SURE! OUR FIRST TIME TOGETHER I WAS... I DON'T KNOW, *FREAKING OUT A BIT!*

IT WAS... NERVEWRECKING GOING TO HER PLACE.

BUT THEN SHE MADE IT *WONDERFUL,* SHE... WAS WONDERFUL.

AND BEFORE I KNEW IT, I FELL FOR HER, BIGTIME!

TRUTH IS, DURING OUR TIME TOGETHER, I DIDN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT PINNING DOWN MY ***SEXUALITY.***

WHAT WITH MY ***PAST*** AND ALL, IT SEEMED AS COMPLICATED AS IT WAS USELESS... TO ***ME*** AT LEAST.

I WAS MORE FOCUSED TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT SHE ***MEANT*** TO ME THAN WHICH TAG I WANTED TO PUT ON OUR RELATIONSHIP...

THAT MAKE ***SENSE*** TO YOU?

SOME...

SO, DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

WHAT SHE MEANS TO YOU, I MEAN!

I---

I LOVE HER!

WOW...SO THAT'S A BIG ***YES!***

I ***NEEDED*** TO SAY THAT. I COULDNT ADMIT IT TO ALLY AT THE TIME. I COULDN'T SHARE IT WITH ANNE OR CASSIE OR ANYONE... BUT INEEDED TO TELL IT TO ***SOMEONE.*** I NEEDED TO HEAR THE WORDS COMING OUT OF MY MOUTH.

AND SO I SAID IT TO THE MOST UNLIKELY PERSON WILLING TO LISTEN. THE PERSON THAT I DISLIKED ONCE FOR THE STUPIDEST OF REASONS. VALERIE...

THERE SHE WAS. WILLING TO HEAR ME OUT. IT WAS A SLOW WORK DAY SO WE SPENT MOST OF IT DISCUSSING OUR OWN ***VASTLY DIFFERENT,*** YET AT TIMES ***OVERLAPPING*** EXPERIENCES. SHARING ANECDOTES, LAUGHS, OCCASIONAL ADVICE... I DIDN'T GO INTO SPICY DETAILS... (I KEPT IT PG)

VALERIE AND I WE BECAME FRIEND THAT DAY, AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WONDERING, THE HUMBLE PIE TASTES SOUR AND BITTER... BUT ODDLY HEALTHY!

OKAY, YOU ***LOVE*** HER..

SOO...IS IT ***MUTUAL?***

I'M HOPING I'LL FIND OUT SOON!

I SPENT A WEEK EXTREMELY MOTIVATED ENDED UP WRITING THE NEXT TWO STORIES, ***MY FRIENDSHIP*** AND ***MY MISTRESS.*** I INTENDED TO SUBMIT THEM TOGETHER...

DURING THAT TIME ALLY WAS BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL GETTING HER WORK FINISHED. SUFFICE TO SAY, WE DIDN'T TALK MUCH. THAT WAS FINE. WE BOTH NEEDED TO FOCUS.

DECEMBER 18TH ALLY WAS FINISHED WITH HER LAST GIG A DAY BEFORE HER DEADLINE.

WELL, EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE WORKING FINE NOW.

WELL DONE ON THE VR GALLERY INTEGRATION.

MY PRIDE AND JOY!

CUT IT UNUSUALLY SHORT ON HE DEADLINE, THO. HAD PROBLEMS?

ARM INJURY! FRESHLY HEALED, BUT YEAH, I WAS TYPING WITH ONE HAND.

WELL, A JOB WELL DONE. LET'S GET YOU PAID!

PHEW

FUCKYEAH!

OKAY, SO NOW WHAT?

!

I HOPE YOU FEEL *MASOCHISTIC,* CAUSE I'M ABOUT TO WHOOP YOUR ASS IN DRINKING...

AND GAMI....

IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT A BIT!

HEY, ALLY!

lisa: 2 new stories incoming!

NOT BAD!

RIGHT?

YOU KNOW, ANNE... I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU FOR AGES!

WELL, IF YOU HAVEN'T PUSSED OUT THE FIRST DAY WE MET...

I DIDN'T PUSS OUT!

SURE THING, FLUFFY!

SO, YOU INTERESTED IN MAKING THIS A BIT MORE ***PERMANENT?***

OH, ALAN... ARE YOU ASKING ME TO BE YOUR PATTERN DESIGNER?

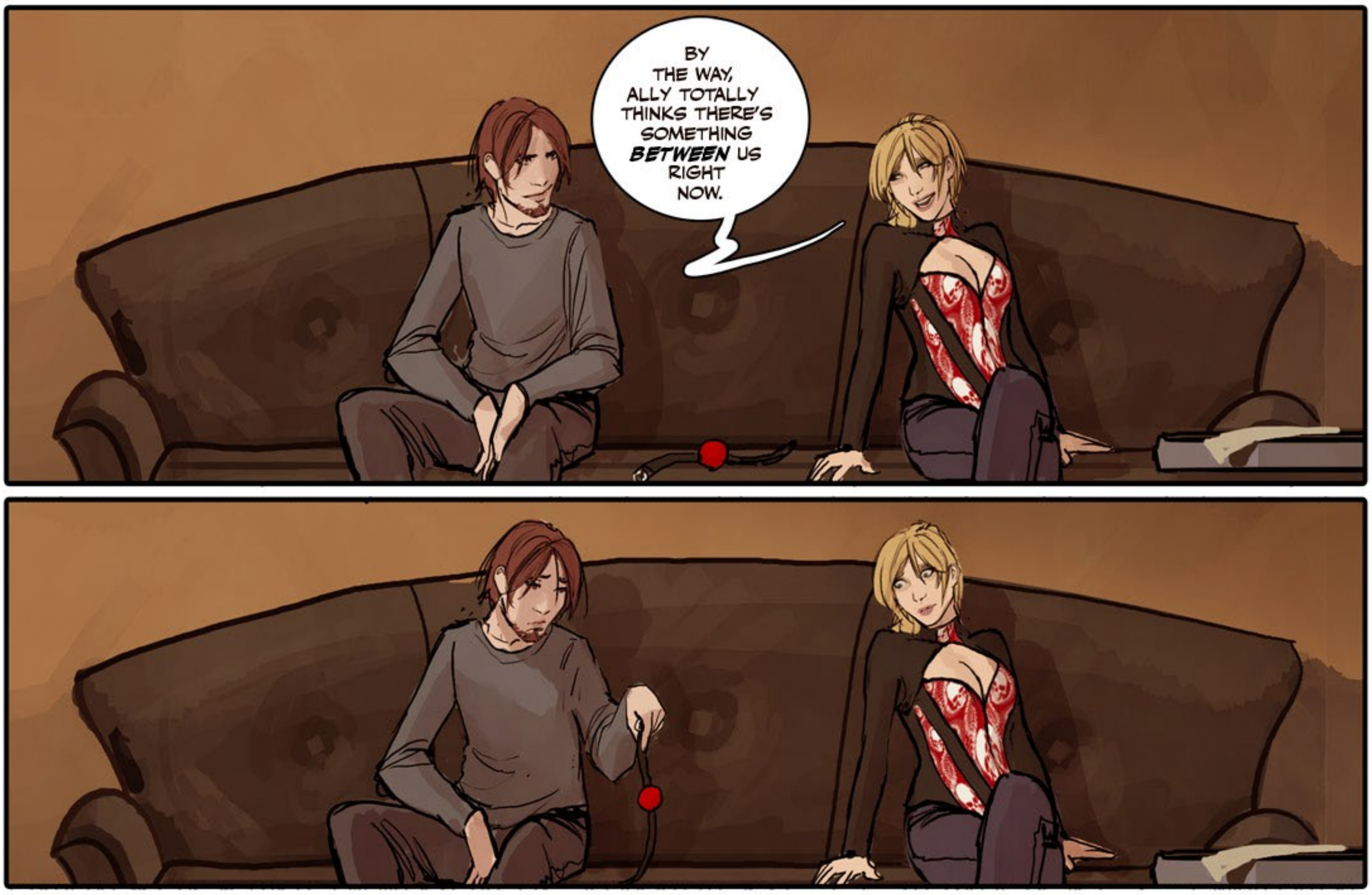
WELL, YES! I CAN'T DIGITALLY ART FOR SHIT, YOU CAN.

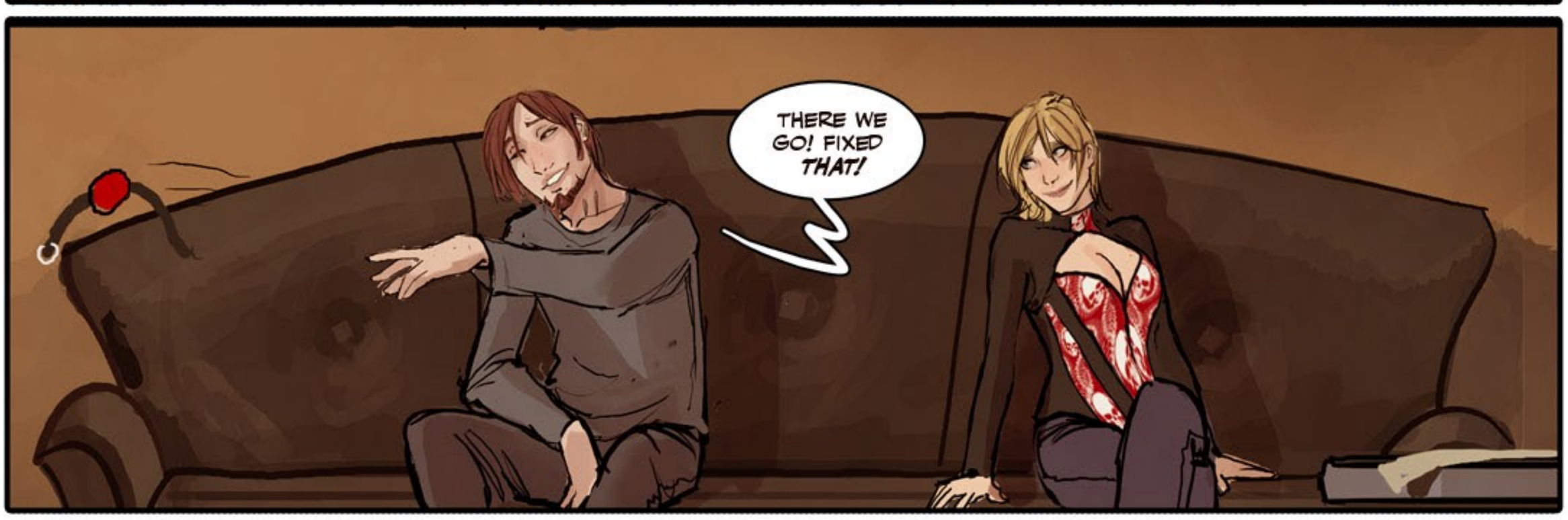
YOU HAD ME AT FREE SAMPLES! I'M ***SO*** WEARING THIS FOR MY NEXT METAL CONCERT!!!

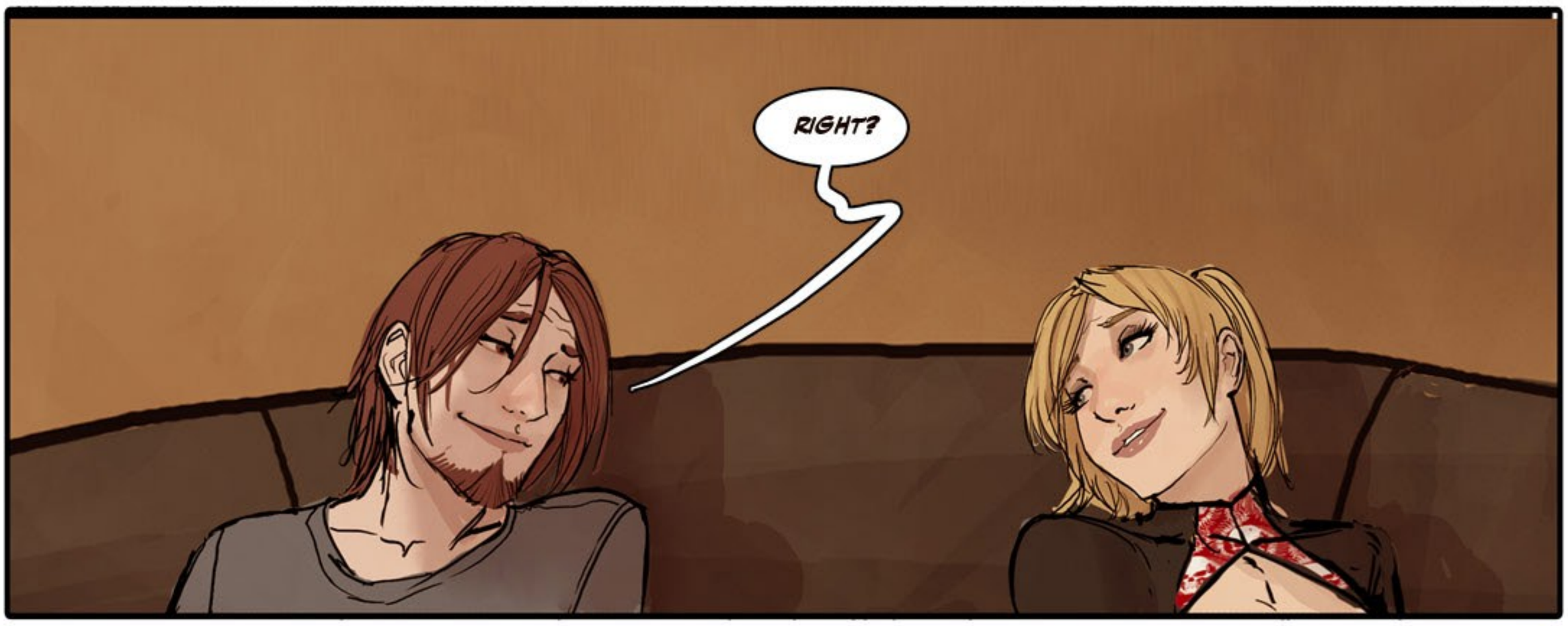
HEH!

YOU KNOW... THERE IS A NEW YEARS PARTY AT THE CRIMSON... YOU'D FIT RIGHT IN!

INTERESTING...







AANYWAYS, BACK TO ALLY

OKAY, ALLISON!

YOU ARE GOING TO READ THIS!

AND *THIS TIME...*

YOU ARE *NOT* GOING TO CRY!

MY FRIEND

AWWWW--KWAAARD!

BUT WHY???
I MEAN, IT WAS NO SURPRISE...

I KNEW THAT ANNE WOULD EVENTUALLY RETURN AS EAGER TO ONCE AGAIN BECOME ***SARAH***, AS I WAS TO BECOME ***LISBETH***

AND AFTER MY TIME ALONE WITH ALLISON I THOUGHT I WAS OKAY WITH IT. YET, THERE WE WERE, WAITING FOR ALLISON TO SET UP SOME NEWLY OBTAINED RIG. AND I FELT RESTLESS.

AND NOT THE FUN KIND OF *"OOOH I'M GONNA GET IT!"* RESTLESS...

ALLISON? YOU ALIVE UP THERE?

YEAH, I'M ***ALMOST*** DONE!

YOU ***WANT*** US TO ***HELP?***

NO! JUST... I DON'T KNOW, KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY TILL I'M DONE!

SIGH...

OKAY, I GOTTA KNOW! HOW COME YOU DECIDED TO JOIN US?

WELL, THAT JUST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE

RIGHT! ***YES!*** BUT IN MY DEFENSE, SO DID ***YOU!***

COME ON, WE GOT TIME! I SAW HER SET UP NEW RIGS, IT TAKES A WHILE!

SO?

SO ***WHY*** I DECIDED TO JOIN YOU?

YEAH?

I DON'T KNOW. BUNCH OF REASONS, I GUESS...

MY LINE OF WORK, TATTOOING.. IT'S SORTA RIGHT ON THE CROSSROADS OF MANY SUBCULTURES. BDSM BEING ONE OF THEM. I WAS ALWAYS SOMEWHAT CURIOUS.

ALSO, ONE OF MY FRIENDS AT THE STUDIO IS A BDSM PRACTITIONER. SHE WOULD TALK MY EAR OFF ABOUT IT WHENEVER I GAVE HER AN EXCUSE.

COOL OUTFITS?

YOUR SMILE...

WUH-- WHAT? I'M SORRY THAT WAS A LOT TO PROCESS!

HEH, I'LL WALK YOU THROUGH IT.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, MY BDSM ENTHUSIAST FRIEND FROM THE STUDIO ASKED ME TO TAKE PART IN A CONVENTION PERFORMANCE.

I WAS SUPPOSED TO TATTOO THIS TIED UP GUY ON A STAGE..PAID REALLY WELL, AND THEY WERE FUN PEOPLE...

PLUS I GOT TO WEAR A SERIOUSLY WICKED OUTFIT...

IN THE END THAT GOT ME THIS REPUTATION OF A TATTOO ARTIST YOU CALL TO DO CRAZY PROJECTS.

HEH... THAT WAS ACTUALLY HOW YOU WERE DESCRIBED TO US.

THERE YOU GO. AND SO ALLISON AND YOU CALLED ME TO DO A *CRAZY* THING...

AND YOU *DID* THE CRAZY THING!

AND THERE IS THE *SMILE* AGAIN!

THAT FUCKING ***SMILE.*** I SWEAR, WHEN I SAW IT THAT DAY, I THOUGH IT'S LIKE YOU WERE TRYING TO CONTAIN AN UNSTOPPABLE ***TIDE*** OF HAPPINESS BY BITING YOUR LIP. AND YET THIS JOY COULDN'T BE CONTAINED. AND... I WANTED THAT!

THAT WAS WHAT TIPPED THE SCALES OF SANITY FOR ME...

I HAD TO CONTACT THE TWO OF YOU AGAIN. I HAD ALLISON'S BUSINESS CARD, SO I THOUGHT OF AN EXCUSE, AND WENT TO MEET HER...

RIGHT... YOUR LITTLE PRIVATE MEETING

I WONDER... HOW MUCH DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT THAT DAY?

SEE... IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR ME...

AND YET, SHE ONLY WANTED TO KNOW ONE THING!

TELL ME, SARAH! DO YOU LIKE MY DEAR LISBETH?

WH--I... UH, I GUESS?

SEE, I'M IN A BIT OF AN UNUSUAL SITUATION. FOR A WHILE NOW SHE HAS BEEN DESIRING AN ADDITIONAL PLAYMATE.

WHILE IT'S NOT MY PREFERRED KIND OF A GAME, FOR HER I AM WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY.

WOULD YOU BE UP FOR THAT?

TO JOIN OUR LITTLE GAME?

IN THE END, I'M KINDA HERE BECAUSE OF *YOU,* LISA!

IT WAS THE WAY SHE SAID IT

WARM... OPENLY HONEST.

I THOUGHT, I TRULY WAS AN *IDIOT* TO BE JEAL....

WAAIT!

SHE TOULD YOU ABOUT MY JEALOUSY!

LISA, I'VE SEEN *SOAP OPERAS* WITH SUBTLER DISPLAYS OF JEALOUSY!

I DIDN'T *NEED* ANYONE'S HELP NOTICING THAT!

OH, GOD! I AM JUST MADE OF FUCKUPS THESE DAYS

HEH!

LISA?

YOU CARE ABOUT ALLISON THAT MUCH?

CARE ABOUT ALLY?

MORE THAN I COULD EVER PUT INTO WORDS!

LET'S CHECK UP ON ALLY FOR A SECOND, SHALL WE?

HYPERVENTILATING, BUT HOLDING UP!

O--KAY! BACK TO THE STORY

WHAT'S NOT TO CARE ABOUT?

ALLY IS WARM

FUNNY...

CLEVER

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE...

SHE IS KIND!

MY... FRIEND...

MY...

MY MISTRESS

KIND, HUH?

HEY, THIS USUALLY ALSO INVOLVES NIPPLE CLAMPS. SHE'S STILL NOT IN THE ZONE!

AH..SO SHE NEEDS SOME *MOTIVATION?*

WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE TWO OF YOU BEING ALL FRIENDLY AND *CLOSE!*

SEE, SARAH, MY LITTLE ***LISBETH*** HERE THOUGHT I MAY BE SHOWING YOU A LITTLE TOO MUCH ATTENTION AND I'M NOTHING IF NOT FAIR SO I FIGURED I'LL JUST TREAT YOU THE SAME FROM NOW ON

I CAN'T HAVE JEALOUSY ON MY WATCH. IT'S AGAINST THE RULES, AND THOSE WHO BREAK THE RULES GET PUNISHED

HEY NOW! TECHNICALLY I WASN'T THE JEALOUS ONE, SO YOU ***CAN"T*** PUNISH ME!

FUNNY THAT!

I CHECKED MY RULEBOOK AND IT ALSO LISTS ***SMARTASSERY*** AS A BIG NO-NO!

AAAND MOTIVATED!

HERE!

WE!

GO!

A FRIEND ONCE JOKINGLY TOLD ME THAT BDSM IS ABOUT PEOPLE TRYING ***WAY*** TOO HAD FOR THEIR ORGASMS.

I ASSURE YOU, THERE IS ***NO*** TRUTH TO THAT!

ANYHOW, TWENTY MINUTES LATER...

SOOOO... HOW'S FAMILY?

KHM!

STOP FIDGETING!

YOU OKAY DOWN THERE, MISTRESS?

I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING! SO SHUT UP BEFORE I SHUT YOU UP!

FINE, FINE! JUST REMEMBER.. LEFTY-LOOSY, RIGHTY-TIGHTY!

IT WAS TRUE...

SHE GOT INTO IT BEST WHEN WE... OH LET'S BE HONEST, ***PROVOKED*** HER!

AND THAT DAY SHE WAS REALLY SPARKED,. NOT ONLY DID SHE SPENT 2 HOURS WITH HER FRIEND SETTING UP THE THING BEFOREHAND, BUT IT WAS A SUSPENSION RIG...

SHE KNEW I LOVED THOSE... I KNEW, SHE DIDN'T LIKE THEM

BUT SHE STILL DID IT!

AND ONCE AGAIN (BETWEEN ORGASMS) I THOUGHT OF HOW MUCH SHE MEANT TO ME...

MMPH

I KNOW...

MM!

YUP! THOSE BATTERIES WILL LAST FOR A WHILE!

BY THE WAY, LISBETH! I WAS MEANING TO ASK! IS IT ***RIGHTY-TIGHTY*** ENOUGH FOR YOU?

FUNNY THING IS, I NEVER SAW THE ATTRACTION OF FORNIPHILIA... GUESS THIS WAS A BIT OF AN ***ENLIGHTENING*** EXPERIENCE!

GMMMH!

THAT LAST ONE WAS A GROAN!

AND I WOULDN'T HAVE HER ANY OTHER WAY PUNS AND ALL...

THAT WAS MY MISTRESS. SILLY AT TIMES...

DEVIOUSLY CLEVER!

AND, OH YES! SHE COULD BE SADISTIC...

YES, SHE WAS SILLY, CLEVER, SADISTIC... ALL OF IT AND MORE!

AND IN THE END, WHENEVER THE GAME ENDED SHE WAS ***THERE*** FOR US

TENDER, CARING, OFFERING BOTH A HELPING HAND AND A KIND WORD

MY MISTRESS...

MY ALLY...

AAND THIS IS WHERE I ***SKIP*** ABOUT THIRTY PAGES WORTH OF RAW PORN...

WHAT? HEY, HIDDEN MESSAGES OR NOT THOSE WERE ***PORN*** STORIES! HELL, I HAD MORE THAN ENOUGH HASSLE WITH ALL THE ONLINE PEOPLE CALLING ***MARY SUE*** ON LISBETH TALES AS IT WAS! IF ALL OF A SUDDEN I TURNED MY ONLINE SMUT INTO A TASTEFUL ROMANCE, I'D HAVE A RIOT ON MY HANDS. SO, ***MOVING ON!***

A-HEM! ANYHOW, ANOTHER WEEKEND PASSED.

ANNE LEFT HOME EARLIER THAT DAY.

ALLISON AND I HAD THE PLACE TO OURSELVES. NOT FOR LONG THOUGH. I TOO HAD TO RETURN TO THE MUNDANE ROUTINE OF MY LIFE. WORK TO DO, BILLS TO PAY...

ALLY TO THINK ABOUT...

LISA!

HMM?

I WAS WONDERING. YOU SAID YOU HAD DAYS OFF FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

I DO!

THING IS... I COULD USE SOME HELPERS TO ASSIST ME WITH... YOU KNOW... STUFF.

AND WHAT, EXACTLY IS THIS "STUFF" YOU'D HAVE US DO?

JUST... THE USUAL, GIFTWRAPPING, PULLING MY SLEIGH, HELPING ME DECIDE IF YOU WERE NAUGHTY OR NICE...

THEN SPANK US BOTH ***REGARDLESS?***

ABSO-FUCKING-LUTELY!

HER SMILE... IT WAS A HAPPY SMILE THAT MADE HER BEAUTY ILLUMINATE THE ROOM...

A THAT MOMENT I COULD NO MORE STOP MYSELF THAN I COULD STOP THE TIME

I KNEW HER HOLIDAY PLANS INCLUDED ANNE AS WELL..

AND.. FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME I WAS OKAY WITH THAT. PLUS, I ENJOYED ANNE'S COMPANY.

BUT IN THAT MOMENT WE WERE ***ALONE*** AGAIN.

I GRABBED THE TOWEL AND PULLED HE IN

ONE KISS. ONE KISS THAT BELONGED TO US ALONE...

AND... I WANTED MORE...

TO BE CONTINUED...

SONOFA BITCH!

SNIFF!

ARGH!

DAMN IT!

MORE! NOW!

SOON!

HOW SOON IS SOON?

29TH!

THAT'S NOT SOON THAT'S LIKE TEN DAYS!!!

IT IS IMPORTANT I DO THIS RIGHT. PLEASE, BE PATIENT THE NEXT ONE IS THE LAST STORY...

WHAT???

JUST... PLEASE. WE'LL TALK AFTER YOU READ IT, OKAY?

FINE... I GUESS!

SOOO? THE STORIES? GOOD? BAD? BURN IMMEDIATELY?

LOVED THEM! HEH, THAT LAST KISS. REMINDED ME A BIT OF THAT DAY YOU MET ALAN... WHEN YOU WERE LEAVING.

DID IT? *PURELY COINCIDENTAL*, I ASSURE YOU :P

IS THAT... ***SARCASM?***

DUH!

WELL ***EXCUSE*** ME, INTERNET DOESN'T CARRY OVER THE TONE OF VOICE.

HENCE THE ":P"

SO IT ***WAS*** AN INTENTIONAL REFERENCE?

YUP!

TA-THUMP TA-THUMP TA-THUMP TA-THUMP

NO, DEAR READER, ALLY WASN'T OBLIVIOUS TO MY SIGNALS...

MERELY CAREFUL. SHE HAS HOPED BEFORE...

AND HOPE IS SO VERY FLAMMABLE.

SUFFICE TO SAY, SHE WAS BURNED BEFORE.

OH GOD... IF I DON'T CHANGE THE TOPIC I'LL...

BY THE WAY, BONDAGE TATTOOING..HOT!

RIGHT? FULL DISCLOSURE THOUGH, TOTALLY RIPPED OFF...I MEAN, "HOMMAGED" THE IDEA FROM ANNE :P

ANNE HUH? LITTLE MINX IS JUST FULL OF SECRETS, ISN'T SHE. BY THE WAY, I THINK THERE IS SOMETHING BETWEEN ALAN AND HER

REALLY?

OH YES... WE WERE GOSSIPING! ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE BOTH KNEW THIS WAS SOON TO END... AND WE WERE KINDA SORTA FREAKING THE FUCK OUT.

SO YEAH, TO DEFUSE THE TENSION, WE TURNED TO GOSSIP.

BUT IT DIDN'T REALLY WORK. BECAUSE WE KNEW... THERE WAS JUST ONE STORY LEFT.

THE LAST ONE

THE *BIG* ONE...

FIVE STORIES.

MY JEALOUSY. IT WAS MY APOLOGY. FOR THE VITRIOL, FOR THE SPITE...FOR JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS.

MY APPRECIATION, AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ALL SHE DID FOR ME. A STORY OF GRATITUDE.

MY FRIEND AND ***MY MISTRESS.*** WERE MORE OF A NARRATIVE CONNECTIVE TISSUE. A BUILDUP OVERTURE TO THE CRESCENDO I HAD PLANNED FOR THE FIFTH STORY...

THE LAST PETAL OF OUR FRIENDZONE FLOWER.

THAT STORY'S WORKING TITLE WAS ***MY LOVE.***

I HAD ANOTHER NAME FOR IT AS WELL.

THE ONE THAT MIGHT STRESS ME INTO AN EARLY GRAVE.

STRAP IN FOLKS, WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

DECEMBER 20TH

LISA...

UH... LISBETH?

NO, LISA! THERE IS SOMETHING I REALLY NEED *LISA* TO KNOW... I... I FELL IN LO..

UGH!

DECEMBER 21

WELL, I'M DONE FOR TODAY. I SHOULD PROBABLY GO...

AND DO WHAT? ELLIOT IS VISITING HER FAMILY, YOU ARE ALONE!

HEY, MY FOOD ARRIVED, AND ALSO, I HAVE THINGS TO DO!

KILLING THINGS IS THINGS TO DO TOO!

WE GOT THE DAILIES DONE! WE CAN KILL MORE STUFF TOMORROW!

WE DIDN'T DO THE HOLIDAY DUNGEON!

FOR BOOSTER CANDY? SINCE WHEN SO YOU CARE ABOUT THOSE?

I DO... OH, GOD! WHAT ARE YOU EATING?

CRUNCH MUNCH SCRUNCH

NEVER YOU MIND WHAT I'M EATING! WHY ARE YOU DESPERATE ENOUGH TO PLAY THE HOLIDAY DUNGEON?

I... NEED HELP WITH KILLING SOME TIME, OKAY!?

TILL WHAT?

MUNCH SCRUNCH

BUCKET O' CHICKEN FEET

DECEMBER 22ND

SO WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF YOUR HYPOTHETICAL DOMME CONFESSED HYPOTHETICAL LOVE FOR YOU?

ASKING FOR A FRIEND!

CRAP!

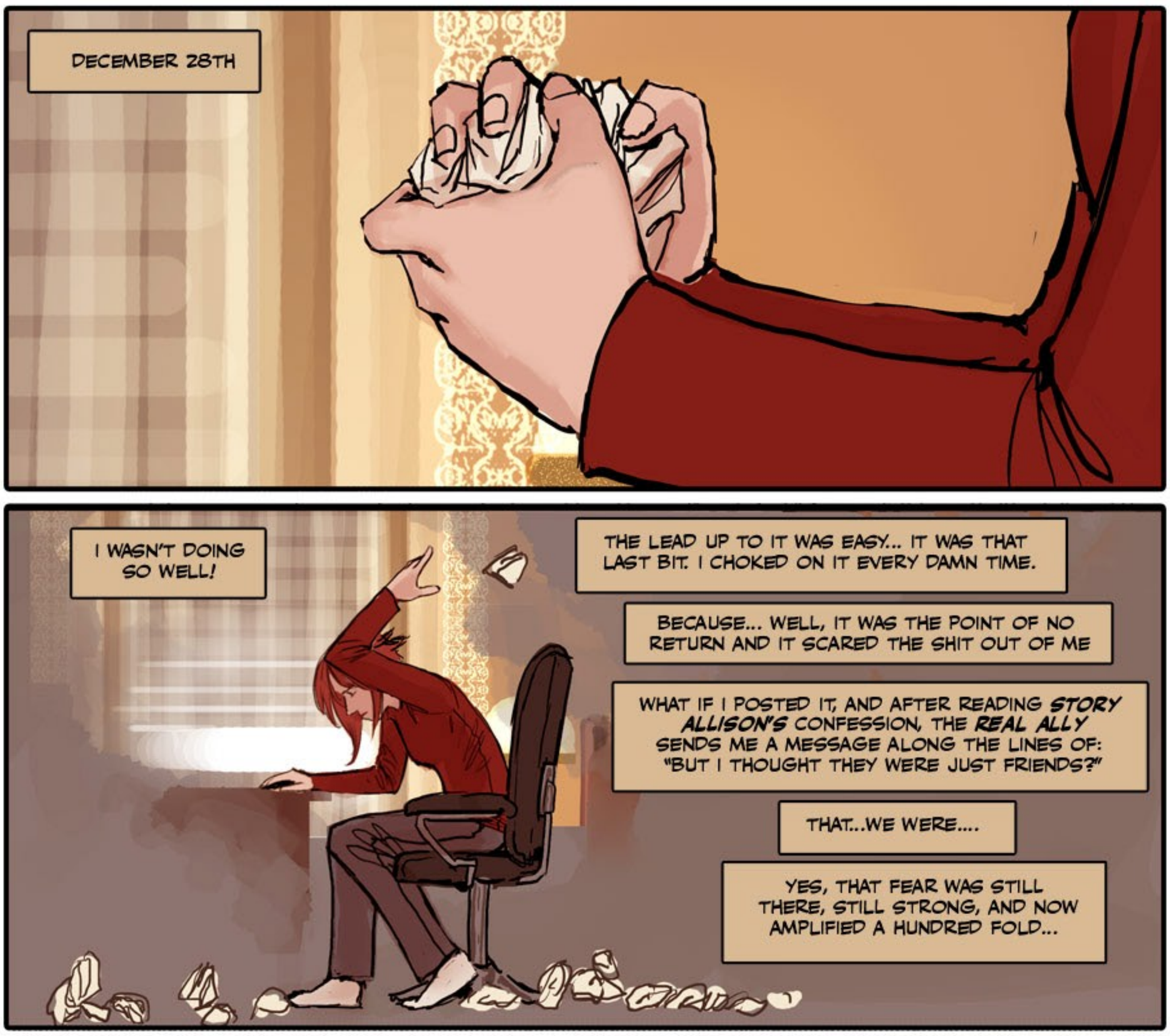
DECEMBER 23RD
SCREW IT! MAINTENANCE TIME!
DECEMBER 24TH
HMM... HOLIDAY BALLGAGS! THAT SHOULD BE A THING!
DECEMBER 25TH
LISA... I LOVE YOU!
NOPE!

DECEMBER 26TH

DECEMBER 27TH

I LUV YOO!

I FUCKING SWEAR! I'M GETTING PROGRESSIVELY ***WORSE*** AT THIS!


DECEMBER 28TH
I WASN'T DOING SO WELL!
THE LEAD UP TO IT WAS EASY... IT WAS THAT LAST BIT. I CHOKED ON IT EVERY DAMN TIME.
BECAUSE... WELL, IT WAS THE POINT OF NO RETURN AND IT SCARED THE SHIT OUT OF ME
WHAT IF I POSTED IT, AND AFTER READING ***STORY ALLISON'S*** CONFESSION, THE ***REAL ALLY*** SENDS ME A MESSAGE ALONG THE LINES OF: "BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST FRIENDS?"
THAT...WE WERE....
YES, THAT FEAR WAS STILL THERE, STILL STRONG, AND NOW AMPLIFIED A HUNDRED FOLD...

I COULD PARTIALLY IGNORE IT DURING THE PREVIOUS FOUR STORIES, BUT NOW I WAS AT THE END OF THAT HALLWAY. ONE LAST DOOR TO OPEN...
DRINN-DONN
NOW WHAT?

HAPPY BIRT---
--SMASS?
SORRY FOR THE DELAY, BETTY!

FOR *BETTY*, FUCK YOU! AND FOR *THIS*, THANK YOU, MIKE!

RIGHT BACK AT YOU!

HEH...

A *JIGSAW*... HEH, YOU KNOW ME WELL!

WHAT'S WITH THE DRAGON THEME THOUGH?

WELL, YOU WRITE FANTASY, RIGHT?

I FIGURED, FANTASY? DRAGONS? FIERY SNAPOFFISH PERSONALITY? I DON'T KNOW, THE WHOLE THING JUST SCREAMS BETTY!

HEH... IT'S ACTUALLY BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST TOUCHED MY FANTASY STORY. BEEN... PREOCCUPIED WITH OTHER STUFF.

IT IS WONDERFULLY CONSIDERATE OF YOU, MIKE!

HEY NOW, DON'T GET MUSHY! YOU UP FOR US GETTING SOME COFFEE? HAVEN'T TALKED IN A WHILE.

SURE... UH... BUT, OUTSIDE. THIS PLACE IS A BIT...

DUMPSTERFIRE?

CREATIVELY MESSY!

SO, NO DECORATIONS AT YOUR PLACE?

I'VE BEEN BUSY...

YOU NEVER TOLD ME... WELL, I MEAN, YOU TOLD ME NOT TO ASK...

ALLISON?

YEAH.

LONG STORY I'D RATHER NOT TELL...

AT LEAST... NOT UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW IT ENDS.

ANYWAY... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

I' SAW YOU SMILE MORE IN THIS ***HOUR*** THAN IN THE LAST FEW ***MONTHS*** COMBINED

YEAH, WELL A FUCKED UP YEAR DONE UNFUCKED ITSELF BEFORE ITS END.

OKAY?

ELAINE AND I... WE'RE GOING TO SEE A ***MARRIAGE*** COUNSELLOR

WOW!

WHAT?

NOTHING... JUST I DON'T KNOW, I GUESS I'VE SEEN TOO MANY BAD TV SHOWS. YOU DON'T SEE MANY GUYS SAYING THOSE WORDS WITH A SMILE.

WELL... I GOT MY REASONS...

I TOLD YOU A BIT ABOUT MY MARITAL ISSUES... BUT IFI WAS TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, IT WAS LESS ISSUES AND MORE A CATEGORY ***SIX*** CLUSTERFUCK!

JUST FOR REFERENCE SAKE... HOW HIGH DOES THE NUMBER GO?

FIVE.

OH...

YEAH.

YOU WANNA KNOW HOW BAD IT GOT?

OPEN MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS BAD!

WELL...I DON'T KNOW, I MEAN *SOME* PEOPLE MAKE IT WORK.

YEAH, MAYBE! BUT, LISA, WE WE WERE HAVING PROBLEMS MAKING A *REGULAR* MARRIAGE WORK.

FAIR ENOUGH.

SO WAIT! THEN, BACK WHEN YOU HELPED ME MOVE IN WITH ALLY, YOU REALLY WERE HITTING ON HER?

YEAH...

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.

LIKE I SAID... OPEN MARRIAGE. DUMB DECISIONS ALL AROUND.

AND SO YOU WENT FOR MY...

MY ALLY...

I REALLY *DO* MEAN IT. I *AM* SORRY ABOUT IT.

UGH... *FINE!*

SO WHAT HAPPENED? I MEAN HOW DID YOU EVEN GET TO THIS?

SMALL THINGS.

A WHOLE *LOT* OF SMALL THINGS HAPPENED.

THAT'S THE THING WITH MARRIAGE

YOU'RE BOTH USUALLY BRACING FOR THE *BIG* THINGS. BIG PROBLEMS

BUT IT'S THE *SMALL* STUFF THAT WILL GET TO YOU. SMALL SHIT SNEAKS UNDER YOUR RADAR. AND IT STOCKPILES! YOU LEAVE ENOUGH SMALL ISSUES UNRESOLVED AND...

I DON'T KNOW... THE MOOD CHANGES. IT'S NOT THE SAME MARRIAGE ANYMORE.

YOU ARE... WEAKENED. AND THAT'S WHEN THE BIG THINGS COME TO CRUSH YOU.

BOTH ELAINE AND I MADE MISTAKES. MISTAKES I'D RATHER NOT TALK ABOUT. SUFFICE TO SAY, OPEN MARRIAGE WAS JUST ONE IN A LONG LINE OF BAD IDEAS.

WE TRIED FIXING THEM, ONLY TO FUCK IT UP WORSE. AFTER A WHILE IT ALL FELT FUTILE, A FEW ARGUMENTS TOO MANY, AND WE GAVE UP... SHE SAID SHE NEEDED SPACE...TIME TO THINK. I WENT TO MOM AND DAD'S PLACE, AND JUST SAT ON MY ASS AWAITING THE ***INEVITABLE.***

I FELT DEFEATED.

TURNS OUT, SHE ***DIDN'T!***

SHE WASN'T EXPECTING SOME ***MIRACLE*** TO SAVE US. SHE TOOK THE FIRST STEP.

SHE CALLED, ASKED ME TO MEET HER. I THOUGHT: SO, AT LEAST SHE'LL SERVE ME THE DIVORCE PAPERS IN PERSON. ***HONEST,*** IF NOTHING ELSE.

SO, I WENT HOME. AS I ENTERED, I GLANCED AT HER RING FINGER... YOU KNOW, KINDA EXPECTING MY SUSPICIONS TO BE CONFIRMED. HEH... BUT THE WEDDING RING WAS STILL THERE. SHE ***NOTICED*** ME NOTICING... THEN SHE SMILED AT ME AND MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT.

AND THEN, WHAT SHE TOLD ME... WELL... IT STUCK WITH ME.

MIKE...

YOU AND I... THERE IS SOMETHING ***WRONG*** WITH US... BUT WHEN I TRY TO IMAGINE MY LIFE WITHOUT YOU, IT FELLS TEN TIMES ***WRONGER.***

I'M NOT GOING TO JUST LET US ***DISAPPEAR***. WE NEED ***HELP!*** COUNSELLING, WHATEVER! BUT I REALLY ***DO*** THINK WE CAN DO THIS... DO IT ***TOGETHER*** THAT IS, IF YOU FEEL THE SAME.

AND IN THAT MOMENT I THOUGHT SOMETHING I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF IN A *LONG* WHILE! *I WOULD DO **EVERYTHING** FOR YOU!*

DID YOU *TELL* HER THAT?

WELL... IT SOUNDED MORE ALONG THE LINES OF "UHHH---OKAY"

DAMN IT, MIKE!

POT, KETTLE?

HEY! YOU'RE THE WRITER IN THE FAMILY!

POINT IS, SHE HASN'T GIVEN UP.... SO I WON'T GIVE UP.

AND THAT'S WHY I'M SMILING... TURNS OUT THAT THE WOMAN I LOVE, LOVES ME BACK.

WELL... THAT'S WORTH A SMILE...

THAT'S WORTH A *THOUSAND* SMILES.

I WAS *HAPPY* FOR MIKE.

AND YET, I FELT ODDLY BOTHERED AS I WALKED HOME THAT DAY.

ALL THE HOLIDAY CHEER AROUND ME AND YET I WAS COMPLETELY UNAFFECTED BY IT.

MY MIND WAS TOO CONCERNED RERUNNING OUR CONVERSATION OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

IT WAS SOMETHING HE SAID...

AND I COULDN'T PINPOINT *WHAT* FOR THE LIFE OF ME.

ALL I KNEW WAS, IT FELT *IMPORTANT!*

UGH, FUCK IT IF IT WAS THAT IMPORTANT I WOULD HAVE PICKED UP ON IT IMMEDIATELY... COME ON, LISA! TIME TO WRITE!

NOW, GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME!!

COOONCENTRATE!

COOO--- OOOR?

USUALLY I FOUND JIGSAW PUZZLES ODDLY FOCUSING. IT WAS LIKE THEY PREOCCUPIED THE FICKLE ATTENTION OF THE INFINITELY BORED PART OF MY MIND THAT ALWAYS SOUGHT TO MISBEHAVE.

THIS LEFT MY ***WRITING*** MIND AT PEACE , ABLE TO PROBLEMSOLVE

NOT THAT DAY. SOMETHING ABOUT MY CONVERSATION WITH MIKE HOVERED IN THE BACK OF MY MIND. A SHADOW IN THE MIST SLOWLY TAKING SHAPE.

MARRIED FOR EIGHT YEARS, TOGETHER FOR FIFTEEN... I ALWAYS THOUGHT MIKE AND ELAINE WOULD BE A COUPLE THAT MAKES IT... AND YET EVEN THEY ALMOST FAILED...

FAILED RELATIONSHIPS? WAS THAT IT?

NO.

IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE!

SOMETHING MIKE SAID...

I FELT DEFEATED.

WARM!

TURNS OUT, SHE DIDN'T!

HOT!

SHE WASN'T EXPECTING SOME MIRACLE TO SAVE US. SHE TOOK THE FIRST STEP.

HOTTER...

AND, IN THAT MOMENT, AN ODD SENSE OF GUILT AWAKENED A SIDE OF ME THAT I NEVER LIKED.

THEN AGAIN THE DISLIKE WAS MUTUAL...

EXPECTING...

THERMO-NUCLEAR!

WELL WELL, LISA! LONG TIME NO SEE!

SO... THIS? WELL, THIS IS HOW I IMAGINE MY SELF LOATHING.

NO... IT CAN'T BE THAT!

NO IT *CAN'T* BE THAT!

TURNS OUT MY SELF LOATHING IS ABOUT 60% HIGHSCHOOL MEAN GIRL.

I WASN'T JUST SITTING AROUND EXPECTING ALLY TO...

NO! OF COURSE NOT! SOMETIMES YOU WERE LYING DOWN!

I... I WAS DOING THINGS, I *AM* DOING THINGS! WRITING STORIES TO GET HER TO READ!

GET HER TO.... TO ***UNDERSTAND***!

THAT MANIPULATIVE SELF INDULGENT CRAP? YOU KNOW VERY WELL WHAT THAT IS! YOU'RE TRYING TO GET UNDER HER SKIN! GET HER TO TAKE INITIATIVE! AS USUAL!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN *AS USUAL?* I ASKED HER TO MEET , FIRST!

BUT YOU WEREN'T IN LOVE WITH HER BACK THEN, WERE YOU?

LISA ONLY ACTS WHEN IT FEELS EMOTIONALLY SAFE TO ACT!

WHEN THERE'S NO RISK

LISUX

FUCK YOU! I PIERCED MY NIPPLES FOR HER! THAT WAS A SIGN OF....

OF *WHAT?* DID YOU TELL HER? OR LIKE THESE STORIES WAS IT ANOTHER FORM OF MANIPULATION?

OMAGAWD! LOOK ALLY, I DID A THING! NOW PRESUME THAT I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU AND TELL ME YOU LOVE ME!

NO! THAT'S NOT ME! I'M *NOT* LIKE THAT!

LISUX

LISUX

JUST SITTING ON YOUR ASS, LIKE A RELATIONSHIP COUCHPOTATO , WAITING FOR *SOMEONE ELSE* TO MAKE A MOVE!

LISUX

FOOMP

THAT'S NOT YOU? I'M TOTALLY *NOT* DESCRIBING YOU, AM I?

NO!

HEHEHEHHEHE *REALLY?* IS THAT YOUR *FINAL* ANSWER? YOU WANNA CALL A *FRIEND,* MAYBE?

EX *BOYFRIEND,* PERHAPS?

DAVID...

YES, TELL ME ABOUT DAVID!

WHY?

BECAUSE THE FIRST STEP TO FIXING A PROBLEM IS ADMITTING IT?

AND WHO CAN RECOGNIZE YOUR FLAWS BETTER THAN YOUR SELF LOATHING?

SO YOU'RE MY SHRINK NOW?

NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT...

SELF LOATHING HAS A NASTY WAY OF *AMPLIFYING* THOSE FLAWS.

THE BETTER TO *SEE* THEM, MY DEAR! NOW SPILL IT!

UGH... FINE.

I MET DAVID IN COLLEGE. WE HIT IT OFF

HE HAD A WAY ABOUT HIM. CHARMING...

NICE SMILE, NICER... EYES.

GROAN!

I DON'T KNOW. WE WERE IN COLLEGE, HE WAS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR AFTER DATING HIGHSCHOOLERS.

HE ASKED ME OUT... PLANNED THE WHOLE THING BEFOREHAND, CAME TO MY PARENTS PLACE IT WAS LIKE AN OLD MOVIE...

WON'T LIE, I WAS A LITTLE BIT SWEPT AWAY.

OF COURSE... CONSIDERING HE TOOK THE INITIATIVE IN EVERY ONE OF THOSE THINGS!

YEAH...WELL, HE WAS GOOD AT TAKING THE FIRST STEP. HIS OLD MAN WAS AN OLD SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER TAUGHT DAVID TO, AS HE WOULD PUT IT, WALK TALL IN LIFE.

AND YOU LIKED IT!

YOU CALLED ***SHOTGUN*** IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP, LEANED BACK AND LET ***HIM*** TAKE THE WHEEL

I GUESS...

I WONDERED AT TIMES IF MY SECRET FETISH HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT... BUT...THING IS, I WASN'T SUBMISSIVE TOWARDS HIM, NOT REALLY. IF ANYTHING I WAS... DEMANDING. EXPECTING.

LAZY!

YEAH.

WE BOTH HAD OUR FLAWS... BUT LAZINESS... YEAH, I'LL OWN UP TO THAT. I LEANED BACK AND HE STEPPED UP.

AND ALL TO THE APPROVING CHORUS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND US.

TREAT HER WELL, DAVID!

MY BROTHERS...

BRING HER BACK BY...

MY PARENTS...

SO... DID HE POP THE QUESTION?

FRIENDS...

MY CIRCLE OF ENABLERS... DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M NOT TRYING TO SHIFT THE BLAME. I BUILT MY RELATIONSHIP PILLOWFORT... THEY JUST HANDED ME A FEW EXTRA PILLOWS.

EVERY ONE OF THEM ASSUMED HE WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

THEY ***ASSUMED*** IT, BUT YOU... YOU WERE ***EXPECTING*** IT!

EXPECTED HIM TO DO ***SOMETHING ELSE*** AS WELL

TO FIGURE OUT THE THING YOU WANTED FROM HIM WITHOUT YOU ***TELLING*** HIM WHAT IT WAS.

I WAS... I WAS ***AFRAID*** OF WHAT HE WOULD SAY IF I TOLD HIM

SOUND FAMILIAR?

REMIND ME AGAIN, LISA! HOW DID IT ALL END UP?

IT... ATE US. LIKE A CANCER.

YEAH...

SO YOU BROKE UP....

THE PILLOWFORT GONE. NO COUCH FOR THE RELATIONSHIP COUCHPOTATO.

THAT'S WHEN YOU BECAME STRONG ONCE AGAIN... EVEN I COULDN'T TOUCH YOU!

LISUX

YOU SNAPPED OUT OF YOUR FUNK... MOVED OUT OF YOUR PARENTS PLACE, STARTED WRITING...

YOU REALLY HAD THE GRASP ON THE REIGNS OF YOUR LIFE.

WELL DONE! HAVE A BADGE!

YOU REALLY *DO* HATE ME...

HELLO? SELF LOATHING? *FUCKING, DUH!*

NOW KEEP TALKING WE NEED TO FIGURE THIS OUT!

LISUX

WHY?

WHY, *WHAT?*

YOU *HATE* ME!

SO, WHY DO YOU *CARE?*

I'M A *PART* OF YOU!

I MAY HATE *YOU* BUT I LOVE *HER!*

I'VE SEEN YOU FUCK UP ONE MAJOR RELATIONSHIP. I'LL BE DAMNED IF I LET YOU RUIN THIS ONE AS WELL!

WE ARE CLOSE TO NAILING THIS! YOU ARE EMOTIONALLY LAZY AND DEMANDING, BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MISSING! SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT BROUGHT ME HERE!

NOW TELL ME MORE!!!

WHAT'S THERE TO SAY? YOU'RE RIGHT! AFTER DAVID I PICKED MYSELF UP. SELF RELIANCE BREEDS CONFIDENCE... OR SOMETHING. POINT IS I MADE MOVES!

I SUGGESTED ALLY AND I SHOULD MEET IN PERSON. SURE, I FREAKED OUT A SECOND LATER, BUT I DID IT! THERE WERE MORE MOMENTS LIKE THOSE EARLY ON. COMING TO HER DOORSTEP IN MY LINGERIE... STEALING THAT KISS ON THE DAY I FIRST MET ALAN.

HOW BOUT THAT?

I WASN'T QUITE AS PASSIVE AS YOU THINK!

WHAT'S THAT TEN MINUTES AGO?

BACK THEN SHE THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST FRIENDS?

'KAY!

IT STILL SAYS, NO LOVE, NO GO! LISA ONLY ACTS WHEN IT'S EMOTIONALLY SAFE!

OH, WHATEVER!

WHAT? DID YOU EXPECT ME TO ALL OF A SUDDEN AGREE WITH YOU?

TO JUST ***GIVE UP?***
LISA, THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY I MAY APPEAR, BUT IT IS YOUR FEELING OF ***GUILT*** THAT BROUGHT ME HERE TODAY!

OH, YOU ***TRIED*** MASKING IT! TRIED ***PLACATING*** ME BY ADMITTING OLD MISTAKES WITH DAVID.

BUT IT IS YOUR REPETITIVE INSISTENCE THAT YOU DID THINGS FOR ALLY, THAT POINTED ME IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

AND NOW, I FIGURED IT OUT.

THE REASON WHY YOU ARE SITTING HERE HATING YOURSELF!

TELL ME!

HEHEHE, THIS IS GONNA HURT, AND I ***LOVE IT!***

YOU ***FELL*** FOR HER, YOU FELL ***HARD***. THEN THE OLD RELATIONSHIP MINDSET KICKED IN YOU FELT THE CALL OF THE OLD PILLOWFORT, AND SANK RIGHT BACK INTO IT.

I'M NOT SURE IF REPEATING A THING TWICE CONSTITUTES A ***PATTERN*** BUT I KNOW A ***BAD HABIT*** WHEN I SEE ONE

LISA

YOU EXPECTED ALLY TO TAKE CHARGE, TO LEAD. SHE WAS YOUR DOMME. IT WAS IN THE JOB DESCRIPTION! AND SHE PERFORMED ADMIRABLY. COMPROMISING FOR YOU, CATERING TO YOU...

EMOTIONAL COUCHPOTATO WANTING TO TAKE THE EASY ROAD WITH ALLY JUST LIKE YOU DID WITH DAVID.

BUT YOUR ENTITLED EXPECTATIONS WERE JUST ONE HALF OF THE EQUATION! THE OTHER HALF IS WHAT TRULY MAKES YOU A PIECE OF SHIT!

IT IS WHAT CALLED TO ME, IT IS YOUR GUILT!

WHAT IS?!

LISUX

YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF WHO SHE SHOULD BE, MADE YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE WHO SHE REALLY IS!

YOU DON'T GET IT?

HERE! LET ME REMIND YOU!

YOUR FIRST NIGHT TOGETHER... YOU NOTICED IT! THE NERVOUS SHAKE OF HER HANDS... EVEN YOUR SECOND TIME AROUND, HER AWKWARD STANCE. THE BODY LANGUAGE NOT OF A ***DOMME,*** BUT OF A ***PERSON!***

A PERSON FULL OF HER OWN FEARS, AND INSECURITIES WALKINGAN UNCHARTED PATH... A PERSON WHO EVERY NOW AND THEN TETHERED ON THE EDGE OF FALLING APART.

BUT SHE COULDN'T FALL APART. NOT WHEN PRECIOUS LISA NEEDS SUPPORT! EVEN AFTER PRECIOUS LISA FUCKS SHIT UP!

SHE WAS JUST AS NEW TO ALL OF THIS AS YOU WERE, AND YOU EXPECTED HER TO CARRY YOUR SORRY ASS!

I FINALLY SAW IT ALL, AND I FELT SICK TO MY STOMACH.

DAVID AND I... WE WERE THE FAMILIAR COUPLE WALKING A WELL THREAD ROAD, MAPS AND ROADSIGNS AND ADVICE FROM PEOPLE AROUND US IN ABUNDANCE.

WITH ALLY I HAD NO FRAMES OF REFERENCE. WE WERE MAKING OUR ***OWN*** WAY...

I WAS NEW TO ALL OF THIS. SEXUALLY, EMOTIONALLY... SHE WAS MANY OF MY FIRSTS. MY FIST DOMME, THE FIRST WOMAN I KNEW INTIMATELY,. FIRST WOMAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH. AND BEING NEW, I EXPECTED HER TO GUIDE ME...

BUT, AS I WAITED FOR HER TO STEP UP, I CONVENIENTLY I TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THE OBVIOUS! I WAS MANY OF ***HER*** FIRSTS AS WELL.

BEST CASE SCENARIO EVEN IF MY HOPES WEREN'T IN VAIN, EVEN IF SHE DID FEEL FOR ME WHAT I FELT FOR HER... MY ALLYCAT... SHE COULD HAVE BEEN JUST AS CONFUSED, JUST AS INSECURE, JUST AS LOST...

I KNEW THIS BUT I CHOSE TO IGNORE IT, BECAUSE IT MADE THINGS EASIER EASIER FOR ME.

I FAILED HER.

I WAS A LAZY... USELESS EMOTIONAL COUCHPOTATO.

LISUX

NO, DEAR READER, THERE WAS NO DARK SELF LOATHING VERSION OF ME IN THE ROOM. NOT IN ANY SUCH ANTHROPOMORPHIC INCARNATION.

ONLY STRAITJACKET I NEED IS OF THE FANCY,X SEXY VARIETY.

I AM A WRITER, AFTER ALL. I EMBELLISH THINGS.

IF I DIDN'T WE'D HAVE A CHAPTER OF ME SITTING ON THE FLOOR THINKING ABOUT STUFF...

RIVETING!

BUT ILL TELL YOU THIS. I NEEDED MY SELF LOATHING THAT DAY .
LIKE I SAID, IT HAD A WAY OF AMPLIFYING ONE'S FLAWS. FIGURING OUT THE CRACKS IN THE MASKS, AND PINPOINTING GUILT. OFTEN TO EXAGGERATED PROPORTIONS, SURE...
BUT I NEEDED EXACTLY THAT. A LENS!
ON ANY OTHER TIME IT IS AN EMOTION I'D RATHER NOT DEAL WITH. THEN AND THERE HOWEVER, MY SELF LOATHING WAS A MICROSCOPE STARING AT A MALIGNANT CLUMP OF UNSEEN CELLS THREATENING TO KILL SOMETHING WONDERFUL

AND IT DID SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME AS WELL...

IT MADE ME CHOOSE.

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO END THE STORY NOW?

YES...

GOOD...

YOUR WRITING STILL SUCKS!

I KNEW HOW TO FINISH IT...

IT TOOK COURAGE, BUT I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO

SO MANY CHANGES, SO MANY REWRITES. IT WAS A COWARDLY TALE I INITIALLY WROTE

IN EVERY VERSION OF THAT STORY, ALLISON SAID IT FIRST, PROMPTING LISBETH, PROMPTING ME TO RESPOND. IT WAS SELF INDULGENT WISH FULFILLMENT AND I ALMOST DUMPED THAT ON ALLY

I HOPED, IF I WROTE FICTIONAL ALLY SAYING IT, THE REAL ONE MIGHT... WHAT? GET A CLUE? FOLLOW IT'S EXAMPLE?

STEP UP TO ONCE AGAIN FULFILL MY SELFISH FANTASY OF HER?

STUPID!

I SWEAR, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THAT DUMB IDEA MADE ALL THE SENSE TO ME AS ONLY DUMB IDEAS CAN. BUT NOT ANYMORE.

I... I ACTUALLY SAID THAT?

SO ALLY... HOW LONG IS IT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HAVING THESE FEELINGS FOR ME

I WOULD NEVER PUT YOU IN THIS SITUATION... I... I... SOB... I DID FALL FOR YOU SOB... BUT HOW COULD I TELL YOU... SNIFF... YOU WANTED A MISTRESS... THAT IS ALL YOU NEEDED FROM ME... AND NOW, YOU KNOW... SOB... NOW YOU SEE... SOB... AND YOU WON'T NEED ME ANYMORE...

BUT ON THAT DAY, 29TH OF DECEMBER, OH YES, I KNEW HOW TO FINISH IT.

NO TURNING BACK NOW.

F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5

F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5 F5

MY ALLY

FINALLY!

IT WAS 2 A.M.

I KNEW SHE WAS UP.
SHE *SAID* SHE WOULD BE.

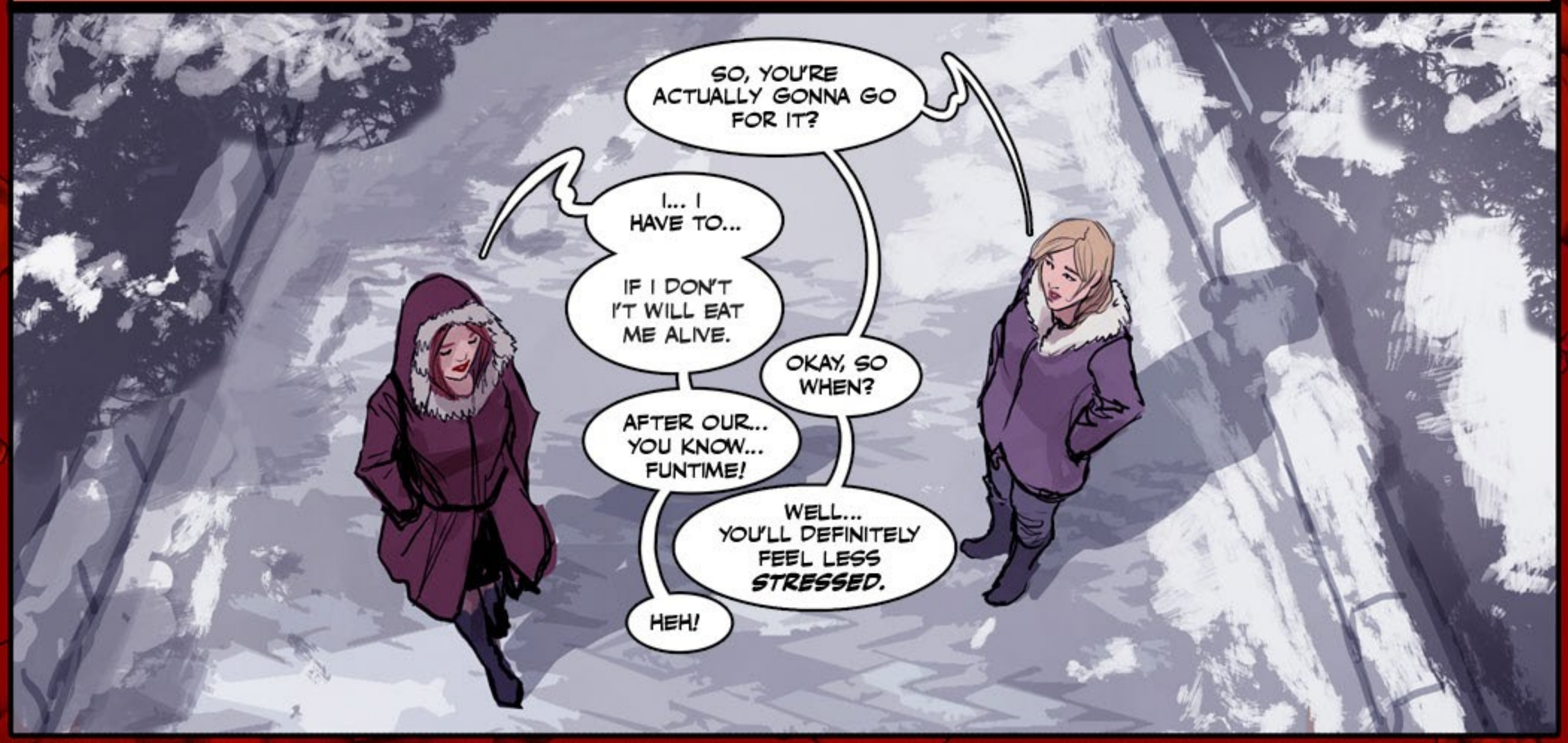
SHE WAS THERE,
READING THE STORY
FOR WHAT WAS THE
NEW LONGEST HALF
AN HOUR OF MY LIFE.

THE LAST STORY...
I RENAMED IT FROM
THE INITIAL "MY LOVE"
TO "MY ALLY"

A DISTINCTION
WITHOUT DIFFERENCE.

*HEART, BRACE
FOR IMPACT!*

MY ALLY


SO, YOU'RE ACTUALLY GONNA GO FOR IT?
I... I HAVE TO...
IF I DON'T I'T WILL EAT ME ALIVE.
OKAY, SO WHEN?
AFTER OUR... YOU KNOW... FUNTIME!
WELL... YOU'LL DEFINITELY FEEL LESS STRESSED.
HEH!

I RING HER BELL FOR POSSIBLY THE LAST TIME. NO TURNING BACK NOW.
AND HERE ARE MY HELPERS!
THOUGH, ACCORDING TO MY LIST, YOU HAVE BOTH BEEN VERY...

HEY, I'T PORN OKAY? I TEND TO INDULGE IN SOME LOW BROW CHEESINESS, THIS SEEMED OBVIOUS SO I WENT FOR IT!

AND I WENT FOR MORE THAN JUST THAT. THIS ENDED UP BEING ONE OF MY MOST POPULAR STORIES... WHY? WELL...

I GUESS, IT WAS JUST ***BRIMMING*** WITH HOLIDAY SPIRIT.

WHAT WITH THE *GIFT* GIVING...

AWW... FOR *ME?* YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!

ENJOYMENT OF *CHOCOLATE COVERED* HOLIDAY TREATS...

KISSES UNDER THE *MISTLETOE*...

OH THAT'S SUBTLE!

AND ALL AROUND GOOD CHEER!

BUT THAT'S NOT THE IMPORTANT PART OF THE STORY... WE'RE GETTING TO THAT.

GOOD NIGHT YOU TWO.

THIS WAS...

...A HELL OF A WAY TO WRAP UP THE YEAR!

I'LL DRINK TO THAT! *AGAIN!*

NONE FOR ME, I STILL HAVE THE STUDIO PARTY TO ATTEND!

I'LL BE THE PERSON WITH THE DUMBEST GRIN THERE!

SO THANK YOU FOR THAT! ***BOTH*** OF YOU!

YOU SURE YOU CAN'T STAY? I MEAN, THERE IS PLENTY OF FOOD!

AND BOOZE!

LOTS OF THAT!

NAH, I'M SURE THE TWO OF YOU COULD APPRECIATE SOME PRIVACY.

RIGHT, LISA?

GOOD LUCK!

WHAT'S *THAT* ABOUT?

OH... NOTHING.

UM... ALLY?

TALL...

UH...

YEAH?

FUCKING ALPHAS...

HOW DO I EVEN...

YOU OKAY?

MHM.

MAAAYBEE?

UH... *ALLY?*

UM... I HAVE A BIT OF A...

UH... CHRISTMAS REQUEST

WELL, I GUESS I PUNISHED ALL THE *NAUGHTY* OUT OF YOU.

MIGHT AS WELL REWARD THE *NICE!*

THING IS, I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD...

WELL... I GUESS... YEAH, *SURE!*

COMFY?

WELL...
FOR IT NOT BEING MY COMFORT ZONE, IT IS ODDLY COMFORTABLE!

THIS WILL DO!

OH YES! THIS WILL *DEFINITELY* DO!

SO... NOW WHAT?

NOW, WE *TALK!*

HUH

UM... LISA, WE DRESS UP FOR THE *KINK*, NOT *TALK!*

NO... NOT YET. SHE IS STILL TOO... HER! STILL TOP EVEN FROM BELOW ME!

BUT, WHAT IF?

YES! HER HEART IS RACING...

Y'KNOW, BOOBS ARE JUST TO BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT

HER VOICE SHAKES. A LITTLE, BUT ENOUGH!

OKAY... KINK. THEN, LET'S START WITH GIVING YOU A *NAME.* MY *ALLY!* HOW ABOUT THAT?

THE QUIPS ARE A *MASK*... BUT I SEE BEHIND IT. A BIT, BUT ENOUGH TO REMOVE THE BAND HOLDING IT IN PLACE.

UH THAT'S KINDA... UNIMAGINATIVE

REALLY? THIS COMING FROM THE BRILLIANT MIND THAT NAMED ME LISBETH

ALLY IT IS!

AND NOW, WE REMOVE THE MASK.

LOOK AT YOU, ALLY NOT SO SCARY NOW, MY LITTLE SUBMISSIVE KITTY.

AS I GRAB HER COLLAR I SEE IT IN HER EYES. GRASPING FOR HER COMFORT ZONE

I DON'T LET GO I OBSERVE HER. I DRINK THE MOMENT IN

BECAUSE... I'LL NEED IT!

THERE!

LISA, PLEASE.... DON'T! I DON'T WANT YOU TO... TO...

TO WHAT?

UH...

TELL ME!

I... I DON'T... WANT YOU TO... SEE ME LIKE THIS.

YOU THINK IT WILL MAKE ME THINK OF YOU DIFFERENTLY?

IT'S JUST WE HAVE A THING GOING. I AM A DOMME, YOU... YOU ARE MY SUB. WE NEED EACH OTHER... I MEAN... THAT'S...

I DON'T WANT TO RISK... RUINING IT!

THAT'S OUR THING.

R-RIGHT?

WHAT IF I WANTED ***MORE*** THAN JUST OUR THING?

WHAT IF I ***ALREADY*** SEE YOU DIFFERENTLY?

WHAT?

ALLY, I WANTED TO DO THIS BECAUSE I NEEDED TO DISARM YOU IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT. I ***COULDN'T*** FACE A DOMME.

I WOULD... I WOULD ***CRUMBLE.***

SO I NEEDED TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

I WILL UNTIE YOU NOW. YOU SHOULD BE FREE FOR THIS PART. I THINK THIS HAS GIVEN ME ENOUGH COURAGE! I CAN FACE YOU NOW AND....

AND...
WHAT?

AND TELL YOU
WHAT I *TRULY* FEEL
FOR YOU!

THE END

WHAT?!?!

IT WAS AROUND HALF PAST TWO AM WHEN THE FIRST COMMENTS STARTED POURING IN...

ALL KINDS OF COMMENTS.
PRAISING THE SEX STUFF
QUESTIONING THE CLIFFHANGERS...

THE WONDERFUL STUFF
AND THE TROLLISH BULLSHIT.

USUALLY I LOVED READING THEM BUT THAT EVENING I ONLY READ TO DISTRACT MYSELF, AS THERE WAS ONLY ONE COMMENT I WAITED FOR.

2, 34 A.M. THE COMMENT ARRIVED.

From allycat: WTF!?

What the fuck?

You are gonna have to be a little more specific.

The ending!

What about it?

This can’t be how it ends! What the fuck??? What does she tell her?

Meet me at the Crimson for the new years party and i’ll tell you!

Friends celebrating new year together, huh?

No. i’m asking you out on a date!

WAIT!

Sarcasm?

No! i mean it! I don’t want your friendship! It’s not enough!
Allison, will you go out with me?

WELL, I MEAN... THIS IS HOW SHE DESCRIBED THE MOMENT TO ME.

I'll be there!

SHE'LL BE THERE...

HEH...

OH GOD... ***PLEASE,*** HEART DON'T GIVE ME A STROKE NOW!

I CAN'T DIE JUST YET!

HEH! I WAS HANDLING IT WELL.

AND YES, THE WHOLE SITUATION HAD AN OVERWHELMING AROMA OF DEJAVU!

BLE-RING
BLE-RING

UGHHHH...

THIS *BETTER* BE FUCKING GOOD!

HAH!

SONOFA BITCH!

DUDE! IT'S LIKE 2 A.M.

WELL... DEJAVU WITH SOME VERY *DISTINCT* DIFFERENCES.

I WILL SKIP DECEMBER 30TH... NOT MUCH TO SAY ABOUT IT. AND WHAT THERE IS TO BE SAID IS BEST LEFT FOR ANOTHER STORY AT A LATER TIME.

IT PRETTY MUCH CAME DOWN TO BOTH LISA AND ME PESTERING ANNE FOR OPINIONS ON WHOLE BUNCH OF STUFF.

TO QUOTE ANNE: *THAT DAY WAS LIKE BABYSITTING TWO TODDLERS ON A SUGAR HIGH!*

SO WE'LL JUST SKIP IT ANG GO STRAIGHT TO THE BIG DAY.

DECEMBER 31ST

A STRESSFUL DAY...

GNNNNNNHHH!

COME ON, LIVER *WORK* WITH ME HERE GIVE STOMACH SOME ROOM!

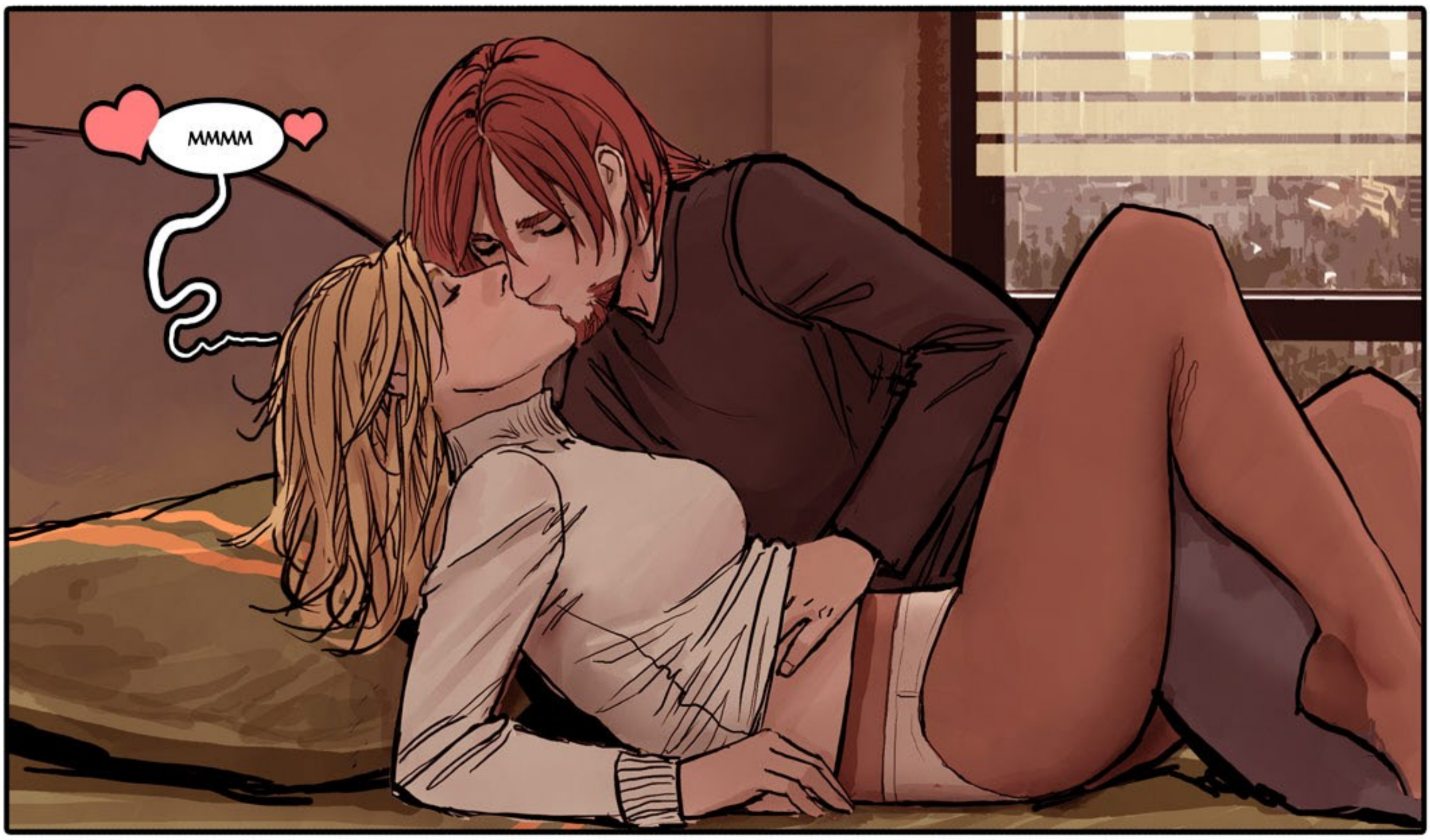
FUNFACT ABOUT APPLYING EXCESSIVE STRAIN ON A FRESHLY HEALED TENDON INJURY:

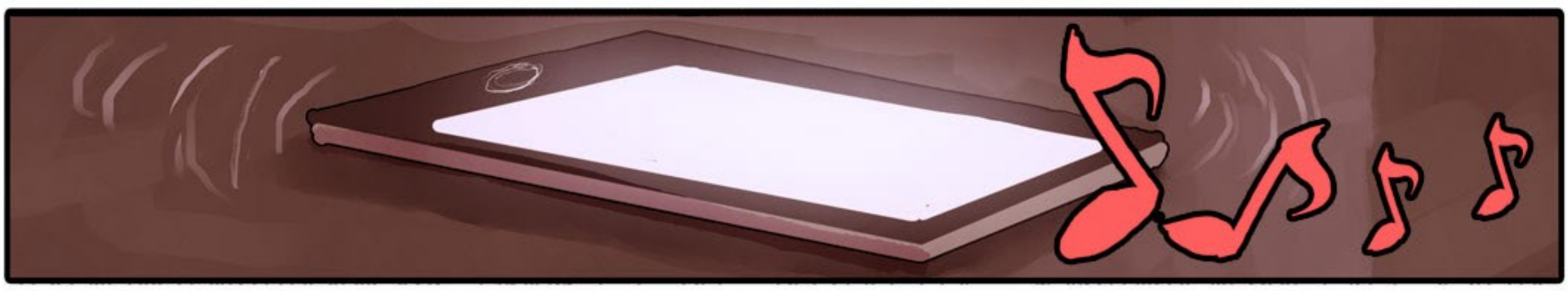
COME ON! COME OOOON!

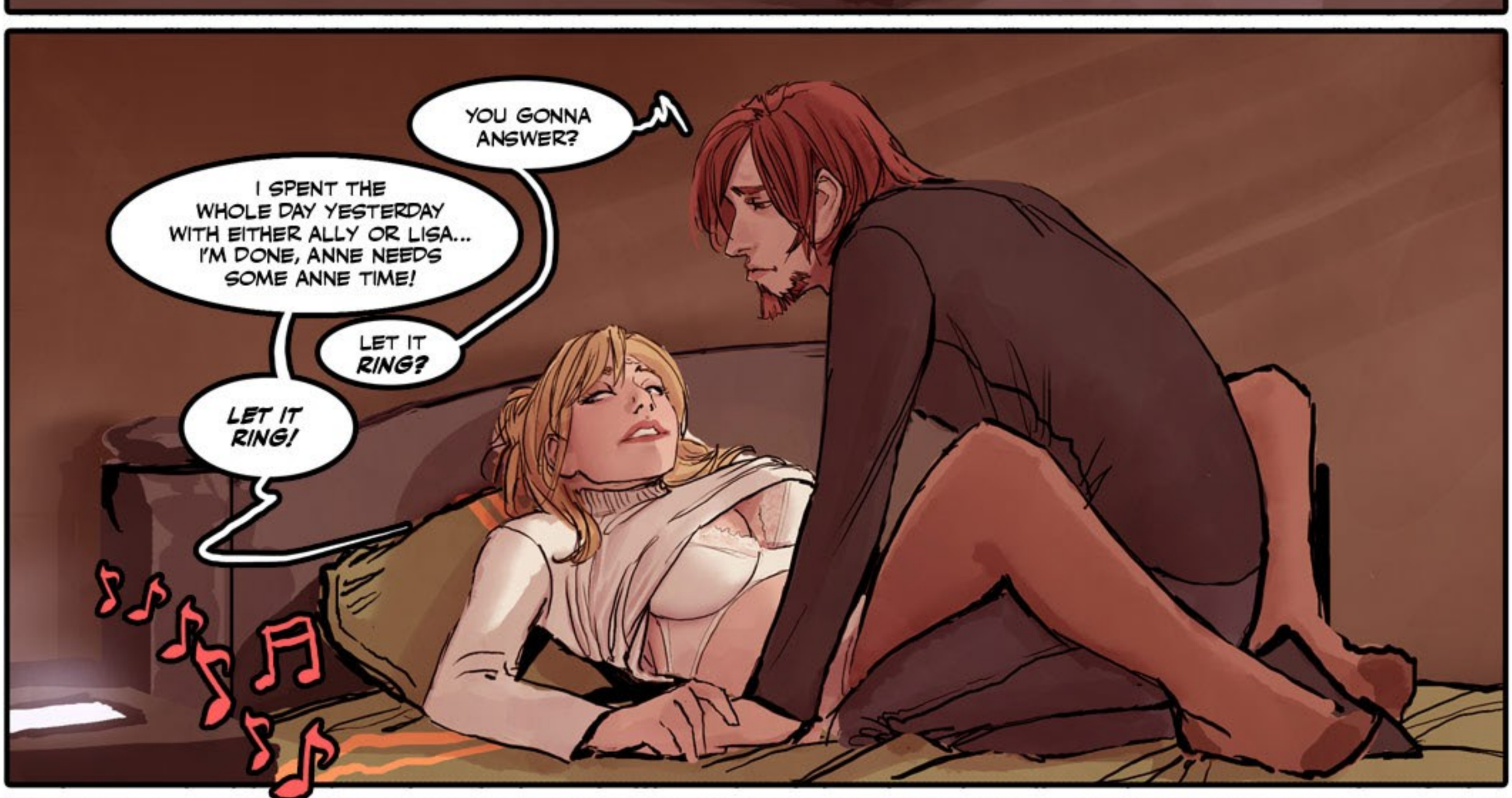
CRICK

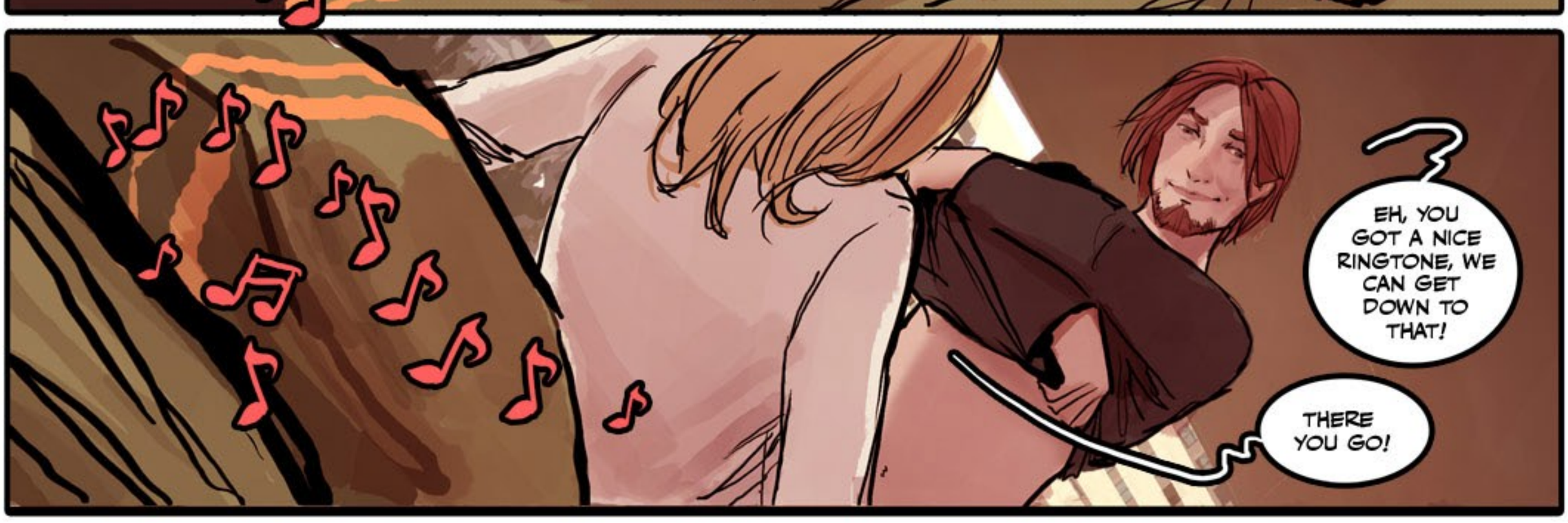
DON'T!

ANYHOW, SKIPPING ALLY'S FLOOD OF PROFANITIES AND MOVING ON!


MMMM




YOU GONNA ANSWER?
I SPENT THE WHOLE DAY YESTERDAY WITH EITHER ALLY OR LISA... I'M DONE, ANNE NEEDS SOME ANNE TIME!
LET IT RING?
LET IT RING!


EH, YOU GOT A NICE RINGTONE, WE CAN GET DOWN TO THAT!
THERE YOU GO!

AWWW... OUR SOUNDTRACK IS GONE!

AAAND THAT WOULD BE YOURS!

OH FOR *FUCK* SAKE, ALLY!

YAKETY SAX

YOU KNOW, ON ONE SIDE , ASIGNING YAKETY SAX AS ALLY'S PERSONALIZED RINGTONE MAKES IT EASY TO KNOW IT'S HER

ON THE FLIPSIDE, *SO* NOT HAVING *THAT* AS MY SEX SOUNDTRACK!

I MEAN, IT COULD BE *KINDA* FUN?

Y'KNOW? *YAKETY SEX?*

ALAN! LEMME PUT THIS IN, AS YOU CALL IT, A NON-NEGOTIONABLE FORM.

MERCY!

WELL FUCK! RIP TO THAT DREAM!

WHAT IS IT?

YEAH...IT'S FOR YOU!

I FUCKING SWEAR THIS IS ***KARMA*** BITING ME ON THE ASS FOR MESSING WITH CASSIE!

NO, THAT WOULD BE ***ME!***

WAH!

HEY, ALLY! 'SUP?

OH, GOD!

I'M COMING!

STILL GOT IT!

HEH!

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, I GOTTA GO.

SHE *REALLY* NEEDS HELP.

WHAT HAPPENNED?

SHE AGGRAVATED HER HAND INJURY AGAIN, AND NEEDS HELP GETTING READY FOR HER DATE.

AH... I SEE.

WELL, YOU BETTER GET GOING!

I'M SORRY.

SORRY?

YOU'RE HELPING THE BEST FRIEND I'VE *EVER* HAD...

I COULD *KISS* YOU... BUT GIVEN THE EXPERIENCE FROM LAST NIGHT, WE KNOW HOW THAT ENDS!

DON'T STROKE YOUR OWN EGO!

OH IMMA STROKE IT!

SO YOU NAMED YOUR PENIS *"EGO"*? INTERESTING.

YOU COMING BACK HERE OR DO WE MEET AT THE CRIMSON?

CRIMSON. I STILL GOTTA GET READY FOR TONIGHT AND WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THIS HAND THING WITH ALLY IS GONNA TAKE ME.

HEH...

I KNOOOOW. ***EVERYTHING*** SOUNDS DIRTY TODAY!

MASTURBATORY ACCIDENT?

UGH...

BEEN SITTING AROUND FOR TWO MONTHS.. PUT ON A FEW...

TRIED FORCING MYSELF INTO A CORSET, AND THE LIGAMENT GAVE IN.

NEED ME TO TAKE YOU TO EMERGENCY?

NO, I CAN MOVE IT I DIDN'T DO TOO MUCH DAMAGE, JUST... ENOUGH TO ***FUCK*** MYSELF OVER

KHM!

WHAT?

SO IT ***WAS*** A MASTURBATORY ACCIDENT!

JUST... IMAGINE THE ***MIDDLE*** ONE UP!

SO WHEN'S THE BIG DATE?

IN THREE HOURS!

SO, SINCE YOU DIDN'T CALL ME HERE TO TAKE YOU TO EMERGENY AGAIN I'M GUESSING YOU'LL BE NEEDING MY HELP TO GET READY?

PLEASE!

THIS ENOUGH?

YEAH.

CAN IT GO *TIGHTER?*

KEEP GOING! YOU KNOW MY *SAFEWORD!*

OH! AND...

THANK YOU, ANNE!

DON'T MENTION IT... NONESTLY, I'M KINDA DOING IT FOR MY SAKE AS WELL.

HOW COME?

I'VE BEEN FEELING A BIT GUILTY FOR THE HALOWEEN THING AS WELL... DON'T GET ME WRONG, BOTH LISA AND YOU WERE COMPLETE DILDOS THAT NIGHT BUT...

WELL, WHEN YOU ASKED ME TO JOIN YOU THAT NIGHT, I HEARD THE HESITATION IN YOUR VOICE. I'M NOT DUMB... BUT...

YOU REALLY WANTED TO GO?

REALLY REALLY REEEALLY WANTED TO GO!

SO YEAH... I'M JUST HAPPY THIS WORKED OUT.

WELL... WE STILL GET TO SEE ABOUT THAT.

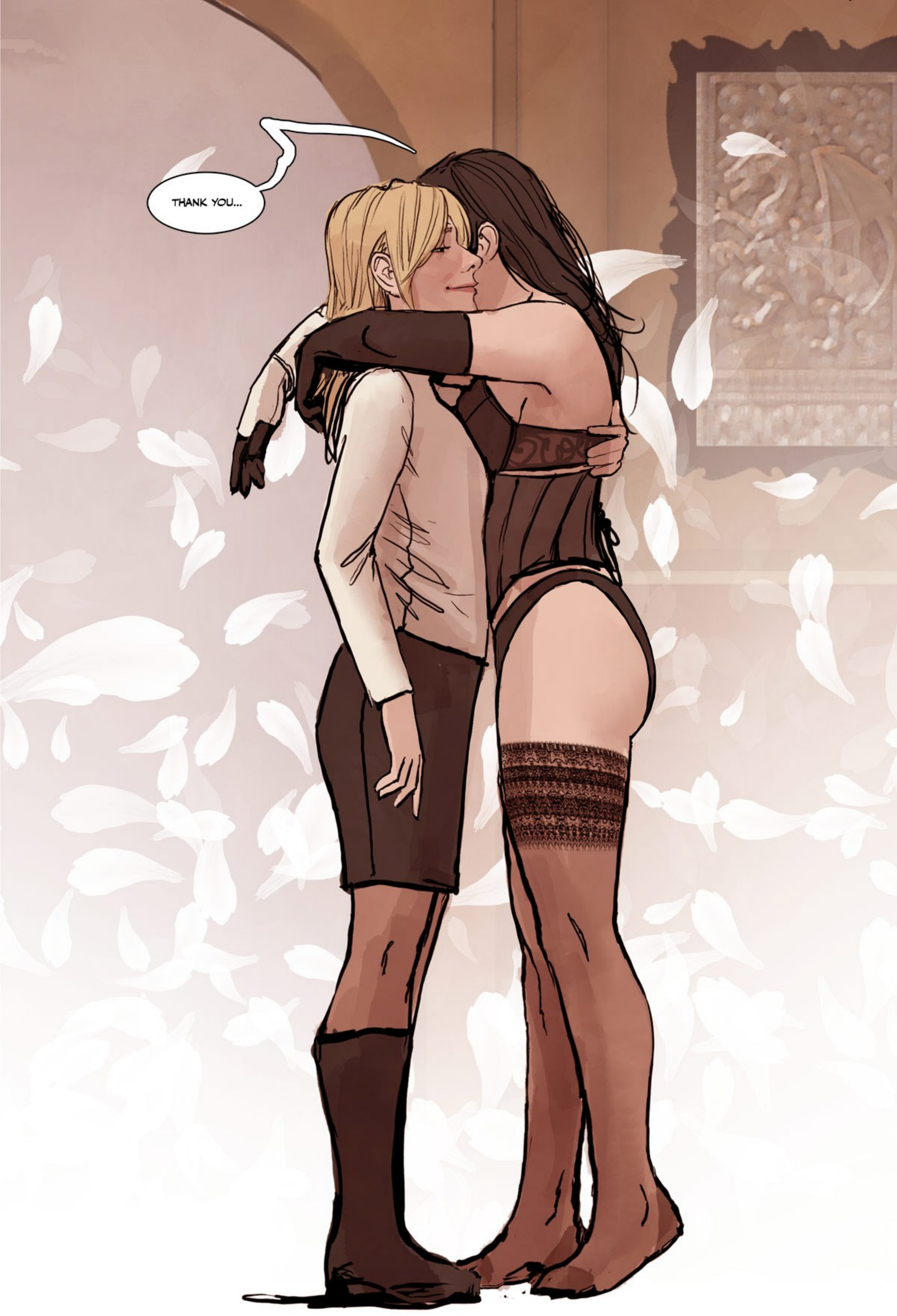
SO LET'S GET YOU DRESSED UP! THEN WE'LL DO A QUICK PITSTOP AT MY PLACE SO I CAN DO THE SAME AND WE'LL BE AT THE CRIMSON ON TIME FOR YOUR BIG DATE!

OH, YOU GOING TOO?

NOT WITH YOU PEASANTS, ALAN AND I HAVE ACQUIRED MORE LUXURIOUS ACCOMODATIONS!

SOOO... LOVEBIRDS GETTING THE VIP LOUNGE?

AHEM... WELL...


THANK YOU...

PETALS AND PUZZLES AND PAGES OF STORIES...

ALL THE STRANGE PIECES OF THE BRIDGE WE BUILT TOGETHER.

THAT NIGHT, THAT NEW YEARS EVE I GATHERED MY COURAGE AND JOURNEYED ACROSS IT

FINALLY.

I WILL SEE HER.

I WILL *TALK* TO HER.

106

I WILL TAKE HER HAND AND TELL HER *ALL* I FEEL FOR HER.

I AM A *WRITER!* WORDS ARE MY *ALLIES!*

I WOULD USE THEM TO *SEDUCE* HER IN PERSON AS I DID WITH MY STORIES.

TONIGHT, I WILL SWEEP HER OFF HER FEET.

I WILL SPEAK TO HER AND...

AND...

ASFGASASDJ ASGHDJHFG!?

ERROR!
WORDS NOT FOUND!

HEY THERE, SEXY?

OH GOD, NO!

HELLO, GORGEOUS?

FOR FUCK SAKE, MAY AS WELL OPEN BY ASKING HER IF IT HURT WHEN SHE FELL FROM HEAVEN!

HEY, ALLY?

TOO ORDINARY! IT'S A SPECIAL NIGHT DAMN IT!!!

AAAAARGHHHH!!!!

EH-HYAY!

NAILED IT!

...

UH... LISTEN! I---I'M SORRY... I... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO... DATE YOU

SOOOO... I'M CHOKING A BIT HERE!

OH THANK GOD! I 'VE BEEN SITTING HERE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES TRYING TO LOOK ELEGANT AND COMPOSED WAITING FOR YOU, AND MEANWHILE I'M SO NERVOUS I COULD *PU*... UM... ***VERY NERVOUS!***

IN FACT, YOU WANNA KNOW HOW BAD IT GOT FOR ME?

SURE

WARNING YOU THOUGH! IT'S REAL DUMB!

DUMBER THAN YOUR PUZZLE LICKING?

WAAY DUMBER!

JUST A SECOND, LEMME FIND HER!

HER?

AH!

MAY I DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE...ENDOWED LADY OVER THERE?

O---KAY?

HERE GOES! HEY, LISA... WHAT'S THE ***ELVISH*** WORD FOR FRIEND?

WH... UH?

MELLON!

WOW!

FUCK ME, THAT WAS ***TERRIBLE!***

I MEAN, LIKE,WORSE THAN MY *"THAT'S WHAT HE SAID"* FIASCO!

RIGHT!?

AND THAT'S HOW DESPERATE I'VE BEEN! I SAT HERE THINKING OF SOME ICEBREAKER, AND KEPT SEEING THAT GIRL PASSING BY EVERY NOW AND THEN...

YOU ARE THE ***WORST!***

HEY, MY COMPANY FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS HAS BEEN MOSTLY THE INTERNET! ALL THE DUMB RUBBED OFF ON ME! ALSO ANNE HAD SOME INFLUENCE.

UH, SO WHAT'S WITH THE ARM? I THOUGHT THAT HEALED?

CORSET ACCIDENT!

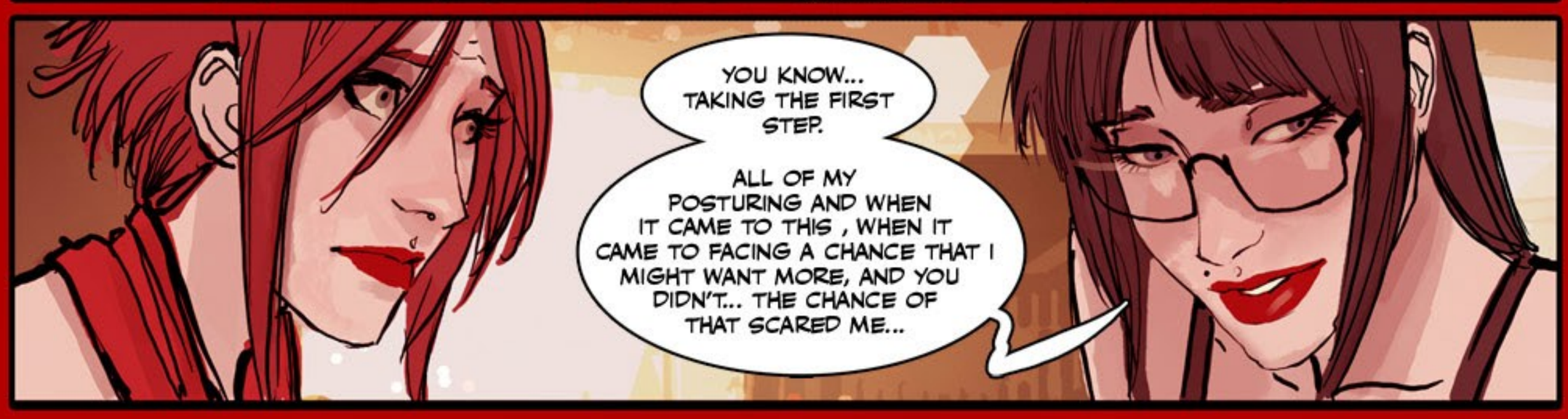
HM... I MISSED QUITE A BIT IN THESE TWO MONTHS.

I MISSED ***YOU.***

THAT... SOUNDED CHEESY...
'SOKAY

AHEM... SO... HOW DO WE DO THIS DATE THING?
YOU ASKED ME OUT, I THOUGHT YOU HAD A PLAN?

HEY, IT TOOK ALL MY COURAGE TO ASK YOU OUT! I WASN'T THINKING MUCH BEYOND THAT!
WELL... YOU WERE CERTAINLY BRAVER THAN I...
I WOULD WUSS OUT EVERY TIME I HAD AN IDEA OF...


YOU KNOW... TAKING THE FIRST STEP.
ALL OF MY POSTURING AND WHEN IT CAME TO THIS , WHEN IT CAME TO FACING A CHANCE THAT I MIGHT WANT MORE, AND YOU DIDN'T... THE CHANCE OF THAT SCARED ME...

THOUGHT OF YOU REJECTING...

I DON'T KNOW...

UH... I---I'M SORRY, LISA...

GUESS I'M NOT MUCH OF A DOMME TODAY...

TURNS OUT YOU'RE IN LUCK... TODAY I DON'T NEED A ***DOMME.***

JUST ***YOU!***

ALL RIGHT! BREAK IT OFF!

?

THIS PLACE HAS BEEN QUIET FOR *LONG ENOUGH!* LET'S CRANK UP THE VOLUME WITH OUR LOCAL STARS RETURNING FROM THEIR SECOND TOUR!

BACK AT THE CRIMSON!

DARK BYSMUTH!

HEEEY CRIMSOOON!!!

I *KNOW* WHAT WE COULD DO ON A DATE

OH NO!

COME ON! *DANCE* WITH ME!

NONONO! I ACTUALLY

I'M A *HORRIBLE* DANCER!

IN THIS DARK HOUR WE'RE ALONE WE WON'T BE NEEDING ANY LIGHT

WE CAN TEAR APART THIS CARNAL MOMENT

BUT I WILL BREAK YOUR HEART TONIGHT!

THAT'S OKAY! IT'S A HORRIBLE SONG!
LET'S GO!

SHE WASN'T LYING!

SHE COULDN'T DANCE.

SHE WAS AWKWARD...

UNCOORDINATED...

...A *DUMBASS!*

MY DUMBASS...

OKAY, EVERYONE WE HAD OUR FUN HERE, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A NICE, *ROMANTIC* SONG FOR ALL OF YOU OUT THERE CELEBRATING THIS NIGHT WITH A *LOVED* ONE!

THIS IS A NEW ONE...

WE CALL IT....

HONESTY!

ALLISON... ABOUT MY STORY'S END...

THE THING LISBETH WANTED TO SAY... WHAT I WANT TO TELL YOU...

ALLY, I....

3-2-1-AND....

IIII JUST WANNA HAVE SEEX! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE MY EEEX!

IT'S NOT EMOTIONS BUT SIMPLE DESIRE

LAY DOOOWN ON THE GROUND JUST RELAAAX AND FEEL MY WHIP AS IT CRACKS!

YOUR MOANS AWAKENED MY HIDDEN FIREEE!!!!

FUCKING REALLY!?!?!?

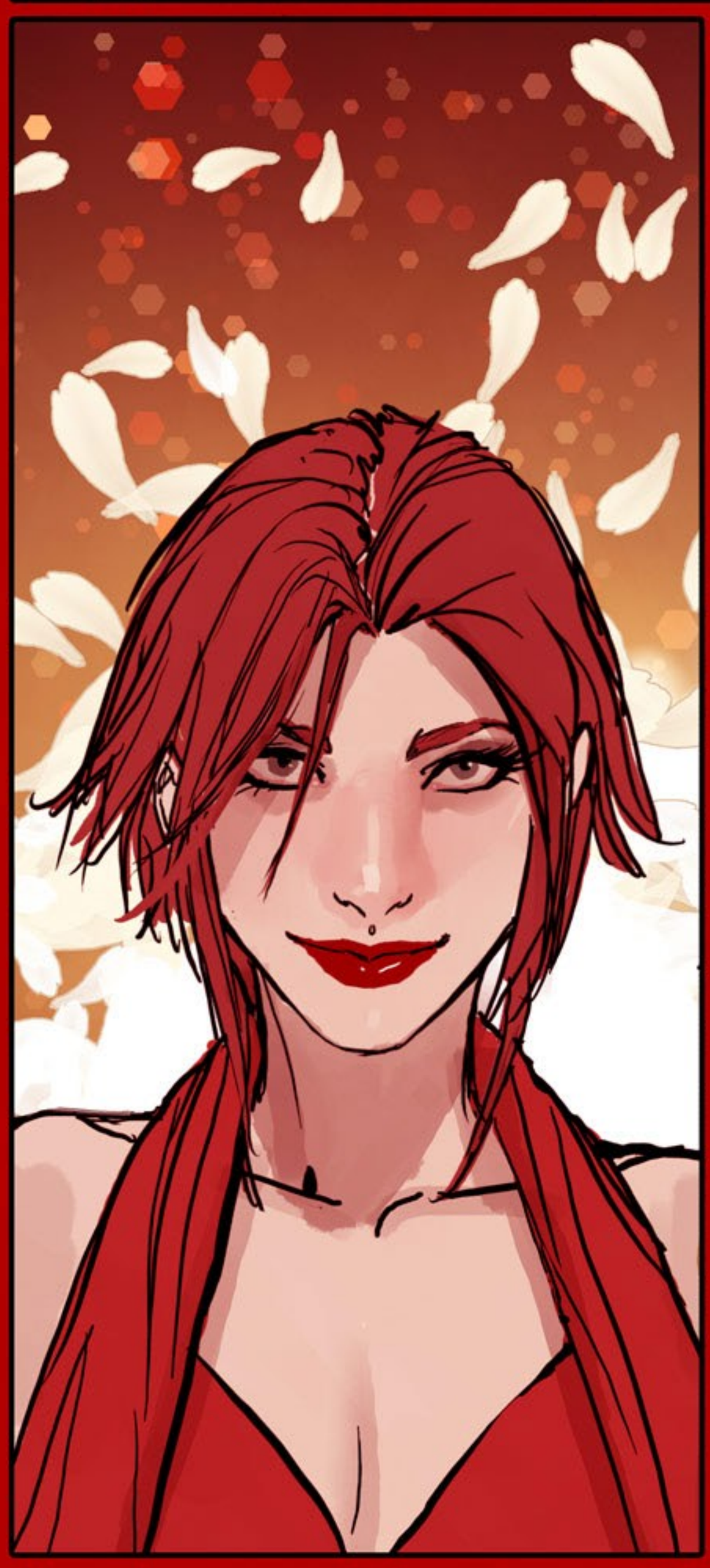
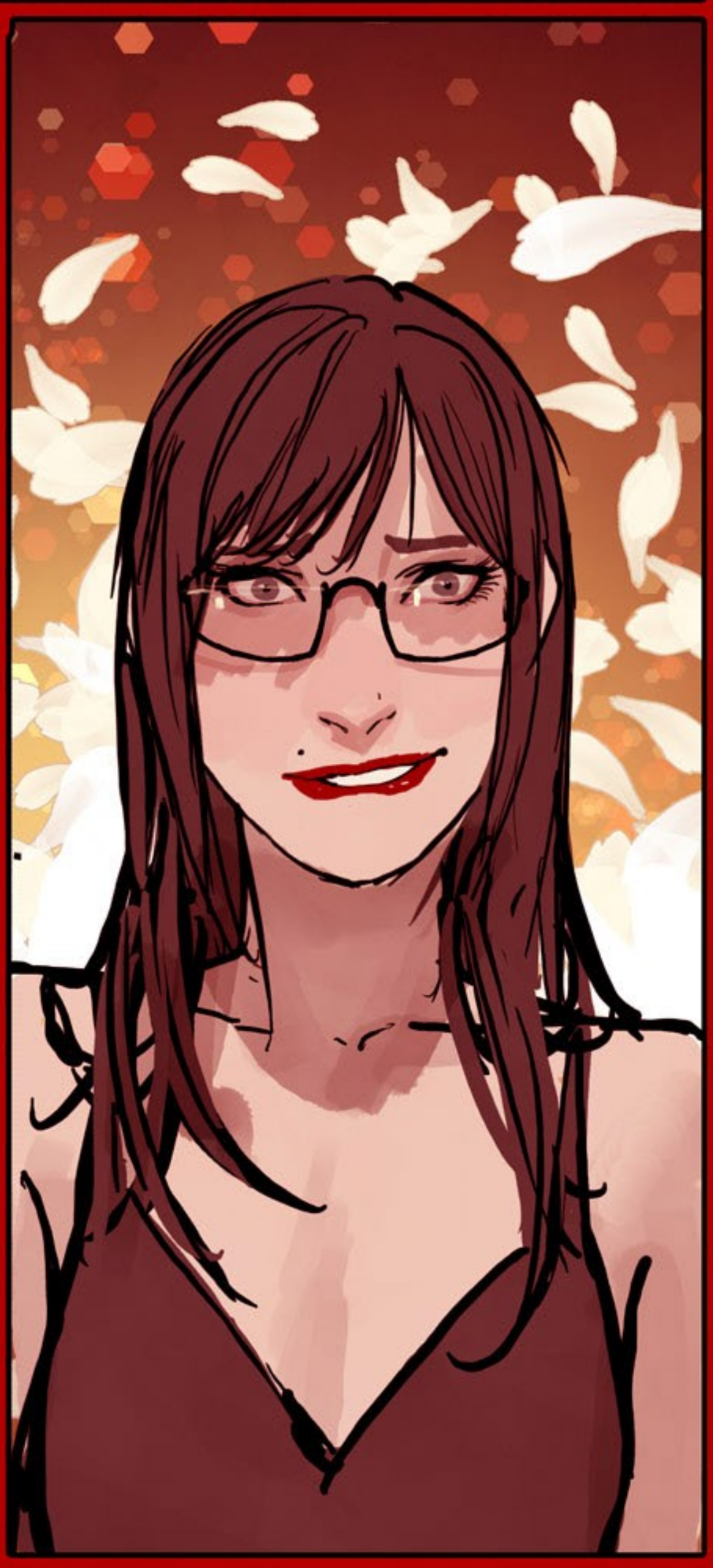
ARGH!

ALLY!!!

I LOVE YOU!!!

WHAAAT!?

I LOVE YOUUU!

I SAID IT A FEW TIMES BEFORE...
SIGNALS SUCK...

EXCEPT...

WHEN THEY *DON'T!*

AS A WRITER I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO COMPLETE THIS "CHARACTER ARC" OF OURS BY SAYING, THAT WE ABANDONED SIGNALS THAT NIGHT AND CLEAR UNAMBIGUOUS SPOKEN WORKDS TRIUMPHED.

TURNS OUT LIFE DOESN'T GIVE A CRAP ABOUT CHARACTER ARCS OR BOOK LOGIC.

SO, IN THAT MOMENT OF PALPABLE IRONY, WHEN THE WORDS COULDN'T BE HEARD, SIGNALS CUT THROUGH.

THEN AGAIN MAYBE THERE NEVER WAS THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO...

I MEAN, SUNSTONE WAS A WORD AND A SIGNAL AT THE SAME TIME.... A SIGNAL FOR HER TO *STOP.*

ON THAT NEW YEARS EVE I GAVE ALLY A SIGNAL TO *GO.*

TO GO WITH ME INTO
THE UNKNOWN.
INTO THE ***WONDERFUL...***

MY ALLYCAT.... MY ***LOVE.***
SHE UNDESTOOD...
AND SHE
RECIPROCATED.

1 MY JEALOUSY

MY APPRECIATION

3 MY FRIENDSHIP

5 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

MY LOVE

I CHANGED IN MANY WAYS THAT YEAR, AND I ENDED IT WITH THE FIRST NEW YEARS DECISION I ***EVER*** KEPT. WHATEVER LIFE PUT AHEAD OF US, I WOULD FACE IT WITH HER, I WOULDN'T LET HER CARRY OUR RELATIONSHIP ALONE...

ALL OF THE BEDROOM GAMES, THE TOPS AND BOTTOMS, THEY MEAN LITTLE TO NOTHING BEYOND THEIR NATURAL HABITAT. OUTSIDE OF THE KINK WE WERE TWO PEOPLE IN LOVE. AND WE BOTH NEEDED TO PUT IN THE EFFORT TO MAKE THIS WORK. IT WAS A SIMPLE LESSON ON THE SURFACE AND YET MANY FORGET IT BY SACRIFICING IT ON THE ALTAR OF PERSONAL COMFORT.

THAT DAY, SEEING ALLY SO VULNERABLE, FEELING HER TREMBLE IN MY ARMS, I SWORE I WOULD NEVER FORGET THIS. AND I NEVER DID.

WE CARRIED OUR RELATIONSHIP ***TOGETHER.***

AT TIMES I WOULD TAKE CHARGE....

YOU WILL GO AND TALK TO YOUR MOTHER AS A GROWN UP WOMAN OR I FUCKING ***SWEAR***, I'LL DO IT FOR YOU! AND BELIEVE ME, YOU DON'T ***WANT ME*** TO DO IT FOR YOU!

AT OTHER TIMES, THE INITIATIVE WAS HERS...

UH, I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING SOMETHING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF...

YOU KNOW...

THIS!

AND IT ALL TRULY BEGUN ON THAT, ONE OF THE THE MOST WONDERFUL NIGHTS OF MY LIFE.
AND NOT JUST MINE. FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE IT KICKED OFF A YEAR OF NEW LOVES...
STORIES OF THEIR OWN TO BE TOLD...

Oh, yes!
We'll get to all of those later...

As for Ally and me, we went home.
No doms, no subs,
not that night.

That night we made love for the first time.

And i swear, it was only
partially because ally's arm
was too busted to tie me up.

THE END

WELL?
I GUESS IT'LL DO...
SO...
GOT MORE?

OH, YES...

MUCH MORE!

BUT FOR NOW, I THINK I'LL TAKE A BREAK.

MY POOR TENDONS NEED A REST, AND, HONESTLY, I REALLY MISSED WEARING MY RING...

RIGHT!
SOOO... I MEAN IN CASE YOUR NECK STARTS FEELING NAKED WITHOUT A RING ON IT, JUST KNOW! GOT YOU COVERED!

YOU REALLY ***ARE*** A DUMBASS!

AH, BUT TO QUOTE A GREAT WRITER: I'M ***YOUR*** DUMBASS!

THAT YOU ARE, ***MY LOVE!*** THAT YOU ARE!

5
MY MISTRESS
5
12 DAYS OF CHRIST
MY LOVE

DONE? PUH-LEASE! WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!